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Washington, D.C. 20237
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U.S. AGENCY FOR
GLOBAL MEDIA

UNITED STATES
BROADCASTING
BOARD OF
GOVERNORS

330 Independence Avenue SW | Washington, DC 20237 | usagm.gov

Office of the General Counsel

March 5, 2020

RE: Request Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act – FOIA #20-003

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests dated October 21, 2019 to the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), which the Agency received on the same date. In your requests, you asked for the following --

FOIA20-003 "An electronic copy of each T/EOS (Operations and Stations Division) monthly report produced since April 15, 2014."

The Agency has completed its search for and review of the records responsive to your request. Copies of nonexempt records are enclosed. We redacted signatures under FOIA Exemption (b)(6) (protecting information, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy) and Exemption (b)(7c) (protecting personal information in law enforcement records the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy). We did not withhold any other information or records responsive to your request. The Agency is waiving all fees for this request and the enclosed records are provided to you at no charge.

This concludes the Agency's response to your request and it is now closed. You may contact me or the Agency's FOIA Public Liaison at 202-203-4550 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

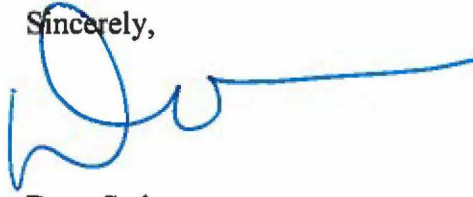
Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
E-mail at ogis@nara.gov
Telephone at 202-741-5770
Toll free at 1-877-684-6448

Facsimile at 202-741-5769

Finally, if you are not satisfied with this response to your request, you may file an administrative appeal with the Agency by writing to: Chairperson, Access Appeal Committee, USAGM, Suite 3349, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20237. Your appeal must be postmarked or transmitted by facsimile to 202-203-4548 within 90 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me at 202-203-4550 or the Office of the General Counsel at the above address or at foia@usagm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana Sade', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana Sade
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 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 3rd 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. (No change from last month)

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. (No change from last month)

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 would like to continue to use the property on a reimbursable basis. The agreement between the Agency and the Marine Corps for the use of the site was effective July 16, 2013. The U.S. Navy has advised the agency that it would like to renew the agreement to allow the Marine Corps to use Site A for another year. On April 24, 2014, the Agency provided the U.S. Navy approval to exercise the first one-year renewal, which will go into effect on July 16, 2014.

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

The Station was visited by (b) (6), a medical doctor with the Botswana Defense Force (BDF) in Selebi Phikwe. He was accompanied by other BDF officials. A tour of the station was conducted.

The Selebi Phikwe Town Counselor, (b) (6), paid a courtesy visit to the Station to meet with the Station Manager.

The Station was visited by 15 officers from the BDF. The purpose of the visit was to tour the Station and to meet with the Station Manager. The delegation consisted of the new commander of the BDF's Eastern Military Garrison, (b) (6) and his deputy, (b) (6).

The Station Manager and Admin Supervisor visited the Selebi Phikwe Police Commander, Superintendent (b) (6).

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in March, (b) (6) from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting visited the site.

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

A Station technician traveled to Ghana to service the TV and radio stations in Accra that were experiencing WiMAX interferences. WiMAX is an alternative method of providing wireless broadband access. The work in Ghana was very difficult due to the environmental and technical conditions at the FM sites. For these reasons, the technician only was able to restore the reception of VOA Africa 24 at the TV-Africa station. The TVRO system at the E-TV station, which is equipped with a very small mesh antenna and located in the direct vicinity of a WiMAX system, could not be restored, and currently, no IBB signal is being received at this station.

In Djibouti, extensions to the FM and medium wave Operating and Maintenance contracts were signed by CON and Radio Television Djibouti. However, the required extension to the bilateral agreement is still pending approval by the Ministry of Communication.

In Orzu, Tajikistan, German technicians were on site to continue the installation of the second Continental SW transmitter. The startup of the transmitter is scheduled for May 2014.

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

The Station Manager attended a meeting at Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Legal Affairs Department to discuss the process of documenting and signing the Station's recently renewed Operating Agreement. Also attending the meeting were the Embassy's Deputy Charge of Mission and the Public Affairs Officer. The very cordial meeting closed with the understanding that the MFA Legal section will consult with the Ministry of Information on the document protocol specifics and will shortly get back to the Embassy with a way to proceed with the formal Agreement signing.

(b) (6) of T/EB visited the Station to inspect the antenna tower sections received from IBB Greenville for the planned HF antenna expansions. (b) (6) worked closely with Resident Engineer, (b) (6), on determining which tower sections would be used to erect the planned rhombic and dipole antennas, placement areas for the antennas and transmission lines, and associated contractual issues.

The Station also was visited by a group of first and second tour Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) from Embassy Kuwait, who were given a tour of the facilities. The Station Manager and Resident Engineer also answered many questions about IBB operations and the history of the Agency. From past experience, these visits raise awareness within the Embassy community concerning the mission and scope of IBB operations in Kuwait, which provides a dividend in better Station-Embassy liaisons.

The Station held a farewell luncheon for retiring Shift Supervisor (b) (6) who has qualified for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and plans to move to the United States. (b) (6) served at the IBB Philippines for 15 years before coming to Kuwait Transmitting Station in 2003. He will be missed by everyone here. The Station wishes him all the best.

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

At Tinian, an outage of 12.75 hours occurred 11 March as a result of unexpected antenna switch matrix problems caused by a scheduled power outage for the installation of the Station's new uninterrupted

power supply (UPS). It has been determined that modifications to the automated antenna control system will be needed so that manual control can be accomplished when there is a loss of automation.

Also at Tinian, contractor personnel completed the installation of the new UPS system a week ahead of the scheduled UPS commissioning.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Philippines, visited the Station to troubleshoot Tinian's generator control problems.

(b) (6), IBB Philippines, visited the Station to assist with a generator control study, and to finalize plans for the fuel oil storage tank cleaning, and the installation of the 40 ton chill water air-conditioning system.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Philippines, visited the Station to assist (b) (6) with the transmitter automation projects at Saipan and Tinian.

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

A representational event with Philippine Military and National Police officials was held in Tarlac.

A total of 156 students, faculty and tour coordinators visited the site during the month.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from IBB Germany were at the Station to install a software upgrade for the Master Control Room (MCR) and the ABB/BBC transmitter's programmable logic controller (PLC). They also installed additional wiring on the ABB/BCC transmitters to accommodate this project that enables the MCR OpCon to initiate coarse command for the tune element's servo motors. It also monitors the execution of the process through read-back indications and repeats the sequence up to three times if initially unsuccessful. Two more helpful fault indicators that would appear on the individual transmitter screens were suggested and appropriate wiring was installed to make this happen as well.

The Station continues to encounter multiple glitches on the MPLS circuit for which the cause is still undetermined.

A new MCR UPS system was installed, commissioned and is operational.

A Station employee and a very good friend to many, passed away on 17 March. (b) (6) was a hard worker and a very competent and dependable employee. (b) (6) will be missed.

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

The two Station riggers returned from IBB Botswana where they worked on the Station's shortwave and medium wave antennas. The work included load inspection of twelve service catenaries, retention of loose guy wires, replacement of electrical conduit feeding the tower lights, and maintenance on all RF field switches. The IBB Sao Tome riggers also conducted training with the IBB Botswana technicians on knot tying and tensioning of guy wires.

B&G tower painters continued corrosion control preventative maintenance on tower #08. They completed the brushing and priming and are ready to apply the secondary international orange and white paint. B&G painters also began scraping, rust removal and priming on tower #06.

Power Plant technicians removed and replaced the four core radiators on generator #04. All five generators are in excellent condition.

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

The Station's former Computer Management Specialist, (b) (6), who left the Station in January 2013 for employment with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, returned to the Station to fill the vacant Assistant Facilities Plant Supervisor position.

Former Station Manager (b) (6) also returned to the Station this month to consult with the Station Manager on the antenna repair project, mast refurbishment project, and solicitation for a new Buildings and Grounds contract.

The Station hosted several Entry Level Professionals from the Embassy in Colombo. These FSOs used the visit to gain a better understanding of BBG operations, and how it relates and contributes to the broader U.S. mission.

The Station became an island-wide topic for discussion when several local media outlets published reports that the Station was home to a secret U.S. Military airstrip. The ruse was started when the search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 shifted focused towards the Indian Ocean. Several online stories suggested the flight was forced by U.S. Military aircraft to land at the Station. The photographs, which accompanied these stories, were photographs of the former Duetsche Welle Station.

The reconstruction and repair of Antenna 275L was completed by the Station's antenna team this month. This antenna was tested using various frequencies with maximum transmitter power. All tests proved to be very successful.

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

Assistant Regional Security Officer (b) (6) and G4S Guard Contract Supervisor (b) (6) visited the Udorn site to deliver a new, replacement motorbike for use by the guards who conduct regular roving inspections of the perimeter fence. This is a 12 km journey and not practical to accomplish on foot.

The Station Manager traveled to Bangkok to conduct Station business and attend a country team meeting, which are especially interesting these days given that the Thai government remains mired in political instability and locked in caretaker status. In addition, a meeting was held with the PAO to discuss the situation as it pertains to upcoming negotiations to renew the country-to-country agreement with MFA for the Rasom MW site. There is very little chance that the Thai government will emerge from caretaker status until after June. Some mid-level meetings with Thai government functionaries are taking place in shopping malls and parking lots because anti-government protestors remain in control of several government buildings and facilities.

(b) (6), a trainer with the Embassy Bangkok's Regional Education and Development Center, traveled to Udorn to provide training to nearly 20 staff members who attended Communications Skills and/or Basic Supervisory Skills workshops. This training was arranged at no cost to the Station.

The Station's Admin Officer, (b) (6), traveled to Bangkok to meet BBG Physical Security Specialist, Rick Castro. She accompanied him on his visit to the MW transmitter plant at Rasom, and introduced him to the staff at the BBG OMPP office in Bangkok. A physical security inspection was conducted at Rasom.

The Station received notice from the Thai National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) that programs emanating from the Thailand Transmitting Station on 7520 KHz and 7560 KHz were causing interference to other services in Russia. The Station is allowed use of these particular frequencies on a non-interference basis only. Management coordinated with Steve Bratcher, Spectrum Management Branch in Washington, on the issue, and written notice was provided to NBTC that the issue had been resolved.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: 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 has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. On April 16th, TSI received the remaining M&R funding for FY14, which comes to a total of \$3,363,178 for the FY. In the first two phases we had allotted a sum of \$885,375, spread over nine sites to fund urgent and ongoing M&R projects only. On April 22nd, allotments were sent to six sites for a total amount of \$1,567,000 to fund urgent FY14 projects.

NCC Renovation: NCC Renovation: GSA posted this project on September 28, 2012 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 25, 2013 to ARRIBA Corporation. The NTP wasn't effective until October 28, 2013 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 31, 2013, with all submittals noted as reject and resubmit after review was completed. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. The Contracting Officer (CO) has sent letters and had meetings with ARRIBA several times. ARRIBA indicated that the completion date for Phase 1 and 1A will be delayed to May 15 due to a delay in the fabrication of the consoles. As of this update, the contractor has made substantial progress, but possibly not enough to meet the May 15th deadline. The new floor tiles and most of the walls have been installed; however the majority of the work still remains, such as the ceiling, lighting, electrical wiring, water lines and drains, installation of interior A/C units and ITI equipment installation. In addition, ARRIBA now has to clean the dust accumulated in existing equipment due to their failure to install an adequate protection barrier in preparation for sanding of the new drywall partitions. The CO has been informed of this situation and a letter will be sent to ARRIBA as required.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA 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 also completed screening the property for possible use by Homeless providers, and no homeless providers were accepted. Per GSA, the City of Delano is interested in the site as an addition to its airport, and may submit an application through the FAA to obtain the property.

The Agency approved the disposal of a complete Collins 821A-1 transmitter, a second remote control console from a second transmitter, and an analog studio board. This action allows GSA to start the process to donate the equipment to the Antique Wireless Association, which plans to display the equipment at two of its museums.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site-A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA is now in the Homeless screening process and a Homeless provider out of Virginia has expressed an interest in the property and has until 30 June to submit an application. These applications are normally disapproved due to the isolated location of our sites.

GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the County is interested in obtaining the site for its Parks and Recreation Department, and may submit an application through the Department of Interior to obtain the site.

The Marine Corps had expressed interest in the property, and had even entered into an interim use agreement with the Agency that allowed them to use the site. However, the Marine Corps advised T/EOS/N that they are no longer interested in the site, and will not renew the interim use agreement when it expires in July.

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

The Station was paid a visit by (b) (6) and his delegation from the Mmadinare Village whose land the Station sits on. The purpose of the visit was to ask the U.S. Government for assistance in building a community arena.

A request for a quote was sent to the Botswana Telephone Company to upgrade the Station's internet data line from the existing E1 to a 6 megabit internet data line and to obtain a high speed microwave link to replace the existing aging one.

The contractor, Sandblast Company, began painting the Station's seven diesel tanks. As part of this effort, the inside of the tanks will be inspected to determine if internal painting is required

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

A technician with Transradio SenderSysteme Berlin began replacing the original HV switchgear in transmitter GB-8 with a new, more compact and updated system. The original system was obsolete. All GB-8 programming was transferred to another in-house computer.

A large storm system passed through the area spawning several tornadoes. One small tornado momentarily touched down in the antenna field, but fortunately, there was no damage involved.

BBG Governor Matt Armstrong visited the Station on 7 April. After a cordial meeting with the staff, he was given a tour of the Station.

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

Of special note was the visit of (b) (6) and (b) (6) from Radio Television Djibouti (RTD). Discussions were held on the relocation of RTD facilities and the addition of land to our existing site to increase the buffer zone and hold back the development.

To provide a backup system to Africa in case of WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) interference in that area, the Station programmed and tested a BARIX instreamer as an audio source for the FM transmitters. The instreamer will utilize the Sudan feed of the internet stream provided via Washington, DC and convert it to a balanced audio feed. The first instreamer was sent to IBB Botswana for testing.

Tajikistan: Several components required for the installation of the second Continental SW transmitter were ordered and shipped to Tajikistan. The replacement for the overload control system was developed by the Lampertheim staff to replace the original unit, which is no longer available. Special missing mechanical parts were manufactured by a local company in Germany.

A second MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) circuit was established in Lampertheim, which will provide redundancy for the currently activated MPLS connection to Washington, DC.

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

The uninterruptable power supply (UPS) that protects the Station's computer systems failed when the main breaker tripped because of a ground-fault on another circuit in the same breaker panel. This situation left the Station without an IT system and telephones. Later in the day, when it was evident there would be no quick resolution, the Station Manager ordered the LAN Administrator to transfer all IT equipment, including workstations and servers, over to regular "house" power circuits until the problem was resolved.

A three-man team from T/I in Washington began a long planned "Refresh" of the Station's IT systems. This project included the migration of certain IT circuits from the SIS to a newly encrypted VPN tunnel between IBB Kuwait and HQ Washington, using the Station's 30 mbps Internet service as a route.

The Acting FSN Transmitter Plant Supervisor and Resident Engineer interviewed four of the Station's radio technicians who had applied for the open Supervisory Radio Technician position. (b) (6) was selected to fill the slot. The promotion becomes effective 18 May.

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

While Tinian was operating on generator power on 21 April, the power system shut down causing 22 minutes of program loss. It was later determined that the SCADA, which remotely controls the generators, miscalculated the Station load due to the loss of information normally sent from the OPCON (operational control) computer.

Tinian's newly installed UPS was commissioned.

Tinian's Master Control Room commenced 24-hour, staffed operations.

At the beginning of the month, the IBB Philippines automation team, consisting of (b) (6), (b) (6), and (b) (6), began work on the Tinian and Saipan Transmitter Automation Project. At the end of the month, all the transmitters at both sites were broadcasting, but TIN-07, TIN-08 and SAI-03 still required manual tuning.

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

The Station Manager, Construction Manager, and seven members of the Station staff attended President Obama's "Meet and Greet" on 28 April at Sofitel Hotel in Manila.

A total of 62 students, faculty members, and tour coordinators visited the site during the month.

The Station encountered a three-hour loss of its MPLS link on 24 April, which was caused by a 10g card failure at Luisita, Tarlac.

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

The Station was visited by the new Regional Medical Officer, (b) (6), who conducted two training sessions in First Aid, CPR and AED to approximately forty staff members. Each member in attendance received a certification card. He also inspected the Station pharmacy and will provide the Station with a list of medications that should be procured.

The HVAC team promptly responded to an emergency call from Master Control over a weekend to work on the central air conditioning unit that services the Transmitter Plant Building. HVAC technicians identified the problem, and replaced one of the four scroll compressors, which restored air conditioning to the building.

During the month, B&G carpenters began replacing corroded sections of roof on the shelters in the storage yard. During the Safety Meeting, several of the shelters were identified as being safety hazards. Zinc sheeting was immediately procured locally and work is progressing at a steady pace. The repairs should be completed by the end of next month.

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

The long awaited monsoon season hit the island, resulting in powerful thunderstorms and heavy rains. The Station's telephone system was completely destroyed by a nearby lighting strike, which struck the incoming phone lines. The Station is minus the telephone system at the moment, and awaiting the receipt of a new CISCO telephone system from HQ Washington.

IBB Philippines Station Manager, (b) (6), visited the Station to help put together the new B&G contract.

An ongoing maintenance & repair (M&R) project for the replacement of corroded tower nuts, bolts, and braces on the North array is close to completion. The Station Manager and Assistant Facilities Supervisor held a meeting with Sooriyarachchi Associates (PVT) Limited (the contractor) to resolve an issue regarding the tensioning process for direct tension indicator (DTI) washers. Sooriyarachchi agreed to re-check tensions for all the nuts and bolts on all North array towers IAW the instruction sheet provided by the DTI washer manufacturer.

Due to the high volume of insects and termites noticed on the site, the Station initiated pest control measures. Five buildings were treated during the month, and the remaining buildings will be treated after the monsoon season has passed.

The Station continues replacing halogen flood lights (500W) with LED flood lights (70W) as an energy saving project. During this reporting period, lighting for the main guard room was completed, with a net reduction of 1.7kW.

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

The Station hosted a Songkran (traditional New Year's Day) party with lunch and live music on Friday, 11 April for all Station families and employees. The highway death toll this year throughout the entire extended holiday weekend was just under 400 with about 3500 injuries reported. Fortunately, there were no such road-related casualties among the extended Station population.

Most of the Facilities Antenna Maintenance unit traveled to Rasom (MW site) to begin scheduled maintenance on the medium wave array. This level of maintenance is performed every three years and requires about two weeks to complete.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: 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 has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. On April 16th, TSI received the remaining M&R funding for FY14, which comes to a total of \$3,363,178 for the FY. In the first two phases we had allotted a sum of \$885,375, spread over nine sites to fund urgent and ongoing M&R projects only. On April 22nd, allotments were sent to six sites for a total amount of \$1,567,000 to fund urgent FY14 projects. On May 14th, management approval was received to fund three urgent projects at Greenville, for a total amount of \$380,000.

NCC Renovation: 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 wasn't effective until October 28, 2013 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd.

We have provided a list of deficiencies to the new CQM to address with ARRIBA. On site, the video monitors' wall and the consoles have been installed, and utilities work is continuing. Representatives from Hanson Engineers were on site for a floor inspection that was abruptly stopped by GSA. However, Hanson performed a site inspection and will submit a report noting all items not in compliance with the contract drawings. Hanson also walked through the site with the new CQM to bring him up to speed on the project. The main issues that need to be resolved are: the routing of the electrical conduits from the basement to the NCC, where the contractor deviated from the approved shop drawings; and the request for power outages, which the contractor is addressing by way of the Utility Interruption Plan, as required by the specifications. ARRIBA has not provided a completion date for Phase 1 and 1A, and a lot of work still remains to be done. We will continue working with GSA to assure that ARRIBA is following the contract requirements.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA 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 also completed screening the property for possible use by Homeless providers, and no homeless providers were accepted. Per GSA, the City of Delano is interested in the site as an addition to its airport, and may submit an application through the FAA to obtain the property. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in developing the site as a habitat, as there are several endangered species found in the Delano, CA area.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site-A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA is now in the Homeless screening process and a Homeless provider out of Virginia has expressed an interest in the property and has until 30 June to submit an application. These applications are normally disapproved due to the isolated location of our sites.

GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the County is interested in obtaining the site for its Parks and Recreation Department, and may submit an application through the Department of Interior to obtain the site.

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

One of the underground firefighting pipes sprung a huge leak at the Medium Wave site. After B&G personnel started digging to expose the pipe, it was determined that a complete replacement was needed. A local contractor has procured the required items to complete the job. In the interim, a portable water tank with pump is being kept at the Medium Wave site in case a fire occurs.

The Station was paid a visit by members from the Ministry of Communications along with 50 junior high school students. The purpose of the visit was to show the students how digital media is used in modern journalism.

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

A technician with Transradio SenderSysteme Berlin installed and commissioned the new HV switchgear in transmitter GB-8. The installation went very well and the transmitter was returned to service.

The Station hosted the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) USA Annual Meeting. Many very favorable comments were received regarding the site and its transmission capabilities.

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

Following a small earthquake and the loss of some data lines, the Lampertheim OPCON (operational control) computer froze and failed to perform any functions. This failure delayed any system notifications. As it occurred during the weekend, the site lost 23 hours of programming. The problem was promptly fixed once the station realized what had occurred.

Automation of the Northern Marianas Transmitting Station was completed during the month. This is a culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of the IBB Philippines and Germany automation teams, and the Station staff. Kudos to all involved and a special note of appreciation to (b) (6) for his work on this very important project.

The Station contacted the VOA Kabul studios because of missing data and video carriers. The Station instructed the technicians to reset some equipment and check the routers. This action required intervention by the staff at the NCC in Washington before it was accomplished. Immediately after the reset, all systems were back in operation.

Three engineers from Lampertheim started the final installation work on the second Continental SW transmitter at Orzu, Tajikistan. During the installation, they noticed that the PA tank coil was heavily bent, which resulted in the transmitter only being operational up to 13MHz. A replacement PA tank coil was manufactured by a local company in Germany. On 27 May, the installation of the transmitter was finished, which was followed by successfully testing it on several frequencies and different antennas. It was turned over to Teleradiokom Tajikistan.

In Afghanistan, our local mechanic traveled to several FM sites to fix problems with malfunctioning generators. In addition, the station observed rising temperatures inside of the FM shelters, which was caused by overloaded air conditioners. These air conditioners are being replaced.

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

The visiting Washington IT Refresh team completed their portion of the Kuwait Transmitting Station's IT Refresh. The LAN administrator completed the project by upgrading the remaining station automation computers to the Windows 7 operating system.

In a coordinated operation, the Crystal SIS Network monitoring and Cisco Call Manager VoIP telephone circuits were migrated from the over-the-satellite link to the recently created secure IPsec fiber router circuit between the Station and Washington. The Call Manager system works great for outgoing calls from the Station to Washington, but calls originating in Washington are not coming through. The issue is being evaluated by the CISCO support team.

Station personnel provided technical support for BBG affiliate FM operations in Kigali, Bangui and Abidjan.

A Diplomatic Note was sent to the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially confirming renewal of IBB Kuwait's twenty-year operating agreement for the period October 17, 2013 through October 16, 2033.

All three Station Drivers received "Safe Driving Awards" from the Embassy this month.

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

At Tinian, one commercial power outage occurred during the month with no program loss of broadcast; however, issues with the restoration of power procedures while in the manual mode were discovered. Currently, Tinian's generators are configured to run in the manual mode due to previous anomalies found while using the SCADA (generator automation) system. Continued testing of SCADA is still needed to clear a few control and status issues.

(b) (6), IBB Philippines Facilities Supervisor, visited the Marianas sites to assist with M&R project development and planning.

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

A representational dinner with barangay officials and day care teachers was held.

A total of 33 LES family members participated in the Take Our Family to Work Day program.

The Station's Medical Unit conducted a Health Fair at the Tinang site.

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

Heavy rains and soggy fields during the month hindered field work and antenna maintenance significantly.

The Station's Administration Section incorporated the use of the Agency requisition form IBB-0042 into its acquisition process this month, replacing the longstanding Station-developed form. This change was made at the request of the Purchase Card Program Coordinator for sake of uniformity and clarity in that office. Special thanks to Transmitter Plant Secretary (b) (6) for his extra efforts and perseverance in building an MS Excel worksheet that resembles the IBB-0042 form and also automatically populates the Station's purchase order form.

Significant time and effort was expended preparing for the migration from satellite reception of SIS and VoIP traffic to locally provided fiber optic service. (b) (6), working with (b) (6) and (b) (6), has taken the lead on this project at the Station; his many years of experience working IT at TSI Headquarters Washington have served us well.

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

In-depth First Aid and CPR training was conducted at the Station for all Station staff. The Sri Lanka Red Cross, Puttalam Branch provided the trainers, who provided an intensive two-day class. This year, it was decided to add infant CPR and First Aid training in addition to the normal course. Many of the staff members have small children, so the additional training was well received and much appreciated. Much of the infant training was unknown to the staff, and a great eye opener.

Embassy Radio Technician (b) (6) attempted to install a new RF cable for the new Kenwood repeater, which is part of an upgrade State Department is performing for the emergency radio network. Unfortunately, he was not able to program the repeater to work with the Station's emergency radio. The Station will call in all emergencies via a cellphone to Post One at the embassy until this issue is resolved.

The much awaited salary increase for all mission LES employees took effect in pay period 10. The Station staff would like to thank BBG/IBB Management in HQ Washington for supporting this raise.

Preparation work for lowering Antenna 291L by the contract crew is another ongoing project that took-up valuable time this month. The contractor, under the direct supervision of station staff, completed installing winch cables and rigging systems, for both halyard cables. Due to winch limitations, the contractor is using a complex four part rigging system, which requires competent vigilant oversight.

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

(b) (6), IBB Philippines, was at the Station and met with representatives of York/Johnson Controls of Khon Kaen in order to develop a statement of work to install the new replacement air handlers and new controllers. York will develop a quote to install and commission the new equipment and identify equipment required to complete the replacement of the pneumatically controlled variable air volume (VAV) systems with contemporary control-by-wire systems.

The Station Manager traveled to the Embassy to meet with Mission Management and discuss security concerns amid the current political situation in country, as the political instability in country finally reached the point where martial law was invoked throughout the country, followed later by a military coup d'état. Following the coup, ten satellite TV channels and select community radio stations were put off the air. The Foreign Ministry's Radio Saranrom discontinued broadcasting on the IBB MW station at Rasom, but was later restored to service. BBC and CNN news channels have been blocked and are unavailable in Thailand as of the end of May. The U.S. Department of State has advised official USG travelers to defer all non-essential travel to Thailand.

Ninety-two students and teachers from the Sawang Dandin Vocational College visited the Udorn Transmitter Plant to tour the site.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: 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 has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. On April 16th, TSI received the remaining M&R funding for FY14, which comes to a total of \$3,363,178 for the FY. In the first two phases we had allotted a sum of \$885,375, spread over nine sites to fund urgent and ongoing M&R projects only. On April 22nd, allotments were sent to six sites for a total amount of \$1,567,000 to fund urgent FY14 projects. On May 14th, management approval was received to fund three urgent projects at Greenville, for a total amount of \$380,000. (No change)

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). Several series of meetings have been held to address outstanding deficiencies and

go over construction logs to identify issues requiring resolution. The next item on the list is the construction schedule, which we expect will establish the new completion date for Phase 1 & 1A. GSA is currently working on developing two options to resolve the issue with the routing of the electrical conduits from the basement to the NCC. The CO has indicated that a Request for Proposal is required to resolve this issue due to the change in the original routing shown in the approved coordination drawings. We are expecting to receive the information soon, which should allow us to move forward on resolving the issue. On site, work is being performed primarily by the electrical sub-contractor, who continues installing wiring and twist lock outlets in Phase 1A area.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA 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 also completed screening the property for possible use by Homeless providers, and no homeless providers were accepted. Per GSA, the City of Delano is interested in the site as an addition to its airport, and may submit an application through the FAA to obtain the property. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in developing the site as a habitat, as there are several endangered species found in the Delano, CA area.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site-A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior has received and approved Beaufort County's application for the property. GSA is working with Interior on the conveyance of the property, and they expect to have it transferred within the next 30 days. The County is interested in obtaining the site for its Parks and Recreation Department.

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

The Station hosted Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (b) (6), Management Officer (b) (6), and other Embassy officials. The purpose of the visit was to tour the Station and allow the Acting DCM to bid farewell to the staff since it was the end of her tour to the Botswana Mission. The Acting DCM and Management Officer had an opportunity to address the FSN community and meet with the B&G crew.

It is worth noting that the listenership for Botswana Transmitting Station covers a very wide area. During the reporting period, the Station received Reception Reports from as far afield as Chile, Greece, China, New Zealand, Germany, Austria and Australia.

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

Antenna B16 was removed from service to allow contractor repair of a broken dipole element insulator. A substitute antenna was used during the repair time.

A thunderstorm passed through the area and damaged the satellite antenna which was the primary source of programming. Thanks to the quick response of the NCC staff in Washington, a Comrex IP audio codec was expedited to the site and was operational very soon after being removed from the shipping carton. A backup satellite feed and dialup were used during the transition to the Comrex.

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

The FM's in Afghanistan experienced program outages due to low signal levels from the IOR satellite. This problem has been corrected and all sites are locked with a good signal.

(b) (6), Deputy CIO, visited IBB Germany. Discussions were held on MPLS and Germany's support of the IT network.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) of Kearney Company, visited IBB Germany as part of the financial audit of the BBG. While there, they audited the Station's property inventory and procurement processes.

(b) (6), the Station's contractor in Tajikistan, visited the Station to discuss the future support of the Agency's operations in Orzu.

The second MPLS link (Hamburg circuit) was put into operation and is working well. All content (audio and video) can be received from Washington, DC and can be fed to the SAT System. Return channels are working as well.

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

Station personnel provided technical support to: IBB subsidiary operations in Africa at Accra, Ghana, and Nairobi, Kenya; tower replacement activities in Burkina Faso; and transmitter replacement efforts in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In respect to the problems in Nairobi, they were precipitated by AFSAT program channel changes. Unfortunately, neither IBB Kuwait nor the Nairobi outlet was copied on emails concerning the need to change the Nairobi Station to another satellite channel. Consequently, when the change happened, a feed for Radio Juba began airing over the Nairobi transmitter, much to the consternation of many folks, both here and in Nairobi.

IBB Washington personnel Garry Marrie and Dennis Cantu, accompanied by Cisco Support Engineer, (b) (6) visited the Station to perform Scientific Atlanta (SA) System configuration conversions for the forthcoming transmission of HDTV television feeds.

The Kuwait Ministry of Electricity and Water requested the shutdown of the 11kV power feeder #1 on June 22nd and power feeder #2 on the 23rd to perform substation maintenance. The Station was able to accommodate the work without disruption.

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

At Tinian, in preparation for the M&R project to clean and inspect the site's aboveground fuel storage tanks, a systematic fuel burn-off from Diesel Tank #1 started in mid-June and continued throughout the remainder of the month. An estimated 11,000 gallons were used during the weekday hours, as all three generators were on line for approximately nine hours daily.

As part of the fuel burn-off effort, the Saipan broadcasts that occurred during the same hours that the generators were operating were added to the Tinian schedule. This action was undertaken to increase the load on the generators which in turn, increased the amount of fuel they used and helped with emptying the diesel storage tank. This action also allowed the Saipan site to accomplish some much needed antenna field maintenance. The reliability hours for Tinian and Saipan do not reflect the 111.5 Saipan hours covered by Tinian, as this schedule coverage was not initiated by an official OpMemo.

The Transmitter Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Upgrade Project for the Station was completed.

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

(b) (6), Management Secretary, resigned after 21 years of service. She and her family migrated to the U.S. through the Special Immigrant Visa Program and she will continue her career there.

(b) (6), Construction Manager, retired after 41 years of U. S. Government service. He is now back in the U. S. to pursue projects he has planned.

The Station's Computer Management Specialist went to Sri Lanka and conducted an IT infrastructure survey. The LAN and Cisco VoIP networks for the Sri Lanka Station's infrastructure upgrade were mapped out.

In the IBB Marianas, the Station's Telecommunications Engineer, together with two radio technicians, completed the replacement of the old FP3 PLC systems with the new FP2 PLC systems on 11 transmitters. They also completed the installation of a new TX metering system.

Five FM radio stations belonging to the SBN/SOLAR Entertainment Corporation signed a grant to broadcast VOA programs. DXSS-FM in Davao was the first site to install satellite receiving equipment. The other stations that are awaiting installation are in Cebu City, Bacolod City, Vigan City and Laoag City.

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

The Station hosted a tour of the facilities for a delegation from the Taiwanese Mission.

HQ Washington's IT staff/management postponed the Station's cutover from satellite to commercially provided fiber optic service. This action was taken despite significant time and effort expended preparing for the migration. Apparently, the local internet service provider, CST, provided a circuit without sufficient reliability. HQ Washington is exploring the availability and cost of higher reliability circuits.

The Station's security contractor, Seguritas, hosted an impressive performance of their guards' Taekwondo skills at Congressional Palace. Most of the performers are guards at the Station.

The Station riggers fabricated and replaced 20 of 36 corroded horizontal screen wires on antenna #14. The Station also found numerous broken/corroded screen wires on antennas #6 and #7 that also need attention. Both of those low band antennas require concrete anchors to be installed before the Station can use the spider cage to perform the extensive work. The work is scheduled for July.

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

IBB Philippines IT Specialist (b) (6) visited the Station to conduct a survey and provide recommendations for the LAN infrastructure project.

(b) (6) of the Station's rigging staff was selected to fill the position of Antenna Team Leader. His appointment was effective June 15.

BBG contracted auditors, (b) (6) and (b) (6), visited the Station as part of the yearly financial audit of the BBG.

Antenna 291L was successfully refurbished with newly fabricated galvanized cables. This is the first antenna that was lowered to facilitate refurbishment since the Station started. During the time the antenna curtain was on the ground, the Station's antenna crew was able to replace nuts and bolts, sand blast galvanized rope clamps, and replace corroded/arced, bronze /steel cables. This joint effort of contractor and Station staffs successfully lowered and raised the antenna curtain and tensioned it to specifications within 14 days. With this effort, the Station gained valuable experience in conducting antenna maintenance in this manner. Now, antenna 291L is as good as a brand new antenna.

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

The Station Manager traveled to the Rasom MW transmitter plant to close out the water well project. The vendor completed all required work and installed a flow switch to protect the new submersible pump from loss of flow. Some minor concrete work is required around the new well. The water quality is quite good and normal water is flowing again in transmitter hall's faucets after a very lengthy wait due to problematic issues in securing signed well drilling permits.

Transmitter Plant Supervisor, (b) (6), and Senior Technician, (b) (6), traveled to Mongolia at the request of the Regional Marketing Office in Bangkok to assist the staff of Radio Standard M in Ulaan Bataar to restore their FM transmitter to service. The faults were corrected and the Station is back on the air now.

The Regional Marketing Office in Bangkok also requested Station assistance to resolve an issue involving loss of programs with 707 Promotion Radio in Udonthani. Station technicians found a defective Scientific Atlanta receiver at the affiliate. The receiver was replaced and service was quickly restored.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The FY14 M&R three-year plan was approved by the TSI Director on December 5, 2013. 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 has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. On April 16th, TSI received the remaining M&R funding for FY14, which comes to a total of \$3,363,178 for the FY. In the first two phases we had allotted a sum of \$885,375, spread over nine sites to fund urgent and ongoing M&R projects only. On April 22nd, allotments were sent to six sites for a total amount of \$1,567,000 to fund urgent FY14 projects. On May 14th, management approval was received to fund three urgent projects at Greenville, for a total amount of \$380,000; Greenville was authorized to proceed with two different projects (replacing one already authorized) on July 9th. On/around July 14th, the Germany Transmitting Station awarded a contract for the repainting of antenna towers at the MW transmitter site in Cyprus.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). After a series of meetings, an outstanding issues list have been created and construction logs have been updated except for the construction schedule. GSA will not ask ARRIBA to

provide a schedule until the issue with re-routing the conduits from the basement to the NCC is resolved. GSA issued a Request for Proposal (RFP for this effort including two options. The proposal is due on July 29, 2014. GSA's target date for award is August 4, 2014. There has been minimal work performed on site. The COR sent a notification to ARRIBA's PM indicating the lack of satisfactory progress.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site and have begun the application process to obtain all or a portion of the site.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site-A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior has received and approved Beaufort County's application for the property. GSA is working with Interior on the conveyance of the property. The County is interested in obtaining the site for its Parks and Recreation Department.

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

The contractor, Fish Eagle Construction Services, began installing the 2.5 mile water pipe to carry non-potable water from the Medium Wave site to the Administrative site. Fish Eagle expects to complete the job by the end of August.

It appears that the Botswana government has gotten a handle on their power problems. There were very few, if any, rolling blackouts during the month. With that said, the Station will continue to keep the back-up generators in hot standby.

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

Hurricane Author passed through the area with minimal impact to the Station.

The Station operated completely off the power grid, 15-16 July, to allow Duke Energy to perform upgrades to the Station's power substation. The Station's generator worked flawlessly and Station operations were normal during this time.

Members of the New Bern, NC Corvette Club and (b) (6) were given tours of the Station.

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

(b) (6), Radio Technician/Mechanical, retired. (b) (6) has been an integral part of Station operations and his unique skills and abilities will be sorely missed. The Station held a party to celebrate his retirement and all wished (b) (6) a happy retirement.

(b) (6) also retired this month. For many years, he was an employee at the now closed Morocco Transmitting Station, and for the past several years, he has continued to provide outstanding

service in support of the IBB operations in Tajikistan. The Station wishes (b) (6) and his family the best in retirement.

The Afghanistan support contract has been extended for six months. The process to bid a new contract is progressing.

The Eutelsat 13°E (Hotbird) satellite was upgraded to 16:9 aspect ratio, and all embedded videos were converted from 4:3 to 16:9.

All VoIP traffic in Germany was moved from the AOR satellite link to the MPLS link.

Scientific Atlanta receivers were provided for the affiliates in Moldova and Macedonia. Technical support was provided for three new affiliates in Macedonia and Sulaymaniyah, Iraq.

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

Right after the start of Ramadan, hordes of crickets once again invaded the Station for the entire month. Each working day, piles of crickets were swept up from the floors of both the administrative and transmitter areas, because the crickets, after finding their way into the building to escape the outdoor heat, quickly died from the colder temperatures inside.

All uplink video channels to the AsiaSat, IOR and Hotbird satellites were successfully converted to HDTV 16:9 picture aspect ratios this month.

Station technicians and the Resident Engineer provided technical support for BBG subsidiary FM transmitter outlets in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Amman, Jordan and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Station also made arrangements to send replacement RDS units for older units that had failed at our FM sites in Morocco.

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

At Tinian, in preparation for the M&R project to clean and inspect the site's aboveground fuel storage tanks, a systematic fuel burn-off from Diesel Tank #1 was started in June and was completed this month. Following the burn-off, both above ground storage tanks were cleaned and inspected. These inspections included thickness measurements of the roofs, walls and floor metals. All measurements were satisfactory. In addition, visual inspections found only minor coating failures and minimal corrosion on the exterior of the tanks. Spot treatment of the corrosion will commence in August. Applying a two-part sealer and finish coat will commence during drier weather.

At Saipan, there were seven commercial power outages requiring the site to operate on generator power for a total of 8.2 hours during the month. These outages resulted in .75 hours of program loss time.

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

The Station encountered numerous MPLS glitches and an outage lasting 3.89 hours on 18 July with cause undetermined.

The project to replace the roof on the TDY Quarters building was successfully completed. All specifications and requirements of the scope of work were followed and implemented as stated in the contract.

On 16 July, the Electrical Equipment Unit responded to an emergency call from the Master Control Room concerning unstable voltage and frequency of commercial power during Typhoon Glenda "Rammasun". To resolve the problem, the standby generator was put on line to take the Station load. The Station returned to commercial power once normal voltage and frequency of the commercial power was verified at the Concepcion Substation.

On 25 July, a Station vehicle was involved in a three-vehicle mishap along the McArthur Highway in Mabalacat City, Pampanga. The other vehicles involved were a motorized trike and a sedan. Based on the report from the local police, the sedan hit the motorized trike and then hit the Station's vehicle. The Station's vehicle sustained dents, scratches and other body damage to the left hand side of the vehicle.

Forty students and three faculty members from Asia Pacific College were given a tour of the Transmitter Plant.

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

Station personnel assisted the U.S. Embassy Libreville with setup and breakdown for the Independence Day celebration at the Congressional Palace in Sao Tome. This event marks the first July 4th observation since 2010.

The Transmitter Plant completed the install of a satellite dish and receiver needed to support the anticipated Deutsche Welle program carriage.

The HVAC section installed a new VHF radio in the Station's workboat and repaired the critical air conditioning unit that services the safe haven and Master Control Room.

The Station's riggers completed the rebuild of the screen on antenna #14. They fabricated and replaced 20 of 36 corroded horizontal screen wires and three of five vertical screen wires. The spreader bars also were treated for corrosion.

The B&G team excavated an anchor hole at antenna #6 by hand when the backhoe's hydraulic pump failed. This anchor will enable use of the rigging sled and cage for extensive screen maintenance work.

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

The Station's Administrative Management Specialist, (b) (6) resigned. He is immigrating to Australia with his family, where he plans to embark on a study program.

Antenna 255L was lowered to the ground on 9 July for cable replacement and overall refurbishment. It was successfully tested on full power on 30 July.

To accommodate a request made by the village headman and the Iranawilla community, the Station painted eight of the eleven speed humps located between the Thoduwawa Bridge and the IBB Station.

The Antenna staff was called in on a weekend to fix a misaligned matrix switch. Station Management has decided to train the personnel at the Transmitter Plant to fix these kinds of failures during afterhours and weekends.

Antenna tower nuts and bolts replacement work is progressing at a slow pace as the contractor is currently checking the torque on each and every bolt to correct any problems caused by the contractor's use of an improper procedure earlier.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) of the American Embassy visited Udorn to replace the Embassy's defective HF transceiver in the guard office. This action was necessary to restore the emergency communication capability between the Embassy and the Station. They also installed a new frequency agile dipole for use with their transceiver.

On 9 July, the Station Manager, Transmitter Plant Supervisor and Station Management Secretary met with (b) (6), Deputy Director General of the Thai Government Public Relations Department (PRD), (b) (6), the new Executive Director of Radio Thailand, and (b) (6), the Technical Director for Radio Thailand. The purpose of this visit was to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the commencement of operations at the shortwave station in Udorn. In addition, the Station Manager hosted a luncheon for members of the Radio Thailand staff at a Bangkok restaurant.

On 10 July, the Station Manager, Transmitter Plant Supervisor and Station Management Secretary met with the new Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MFA) Broadcast Division, (b) (6). The meeting was informal as (b) (6) only recently assumed this new role.

Forty students and five teachers from the Electronics Department of the Udonthani Technical College toured the Station.

(b) (6), T/CN in Washington and (b) (6), IBB Philippines traveled to Udorn and began working on the installation and commissioning of the Cisco Call Manager. This work will last well into the month of August and will require travel to the MW Transmitter Plant at Rasom in order to complete it.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The FY14 M&R three-year plan was approved by the TSI Director on December 5, 2013. Due to the Continuing Resolution and other budgetary issues, funding was allocated at several junctures, with the final allocation made on April 16, 2014, bringing the total for FY 2014 to \$3,363,178. As a result of the funding allocated to the stations, many different M&R projects are underway or pending award by end of the fiscal year. In addition, the project call process for FY 2015 has been initiated, and the stations have been requested to submit their proposed projects in September.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an

outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs. However, work on site has been minimal and the change order for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC has not been awarded. The CO awarded an extension to the period of performance on August 22, 2014 with a new completion date of February 10, 2015. Then on August 25, 2014, the CO sent a cure notice to the contractor. The notice included: list of non-performance days, list of outstanding submittals, outstanding issues, and request for utilities interruption and installation plans, which were due on August 19, 2014. ARRIBA was given 10 days after receipt of the notice to cure the conditions.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site and have begun the application process to obtain all or a portion of the site. (No change)

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior has received and approved Beaufort County's application for the property. The National Park Service sent Beaufort County a letter with a deadline of September 26 to accept the property or the National Park Service will release the property back to GSA and GSA will proceed with selling the property.

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

The Station's new Assistant Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6), started work this month; the Station is happy to have this most welcome addition.

The Station Manager traveled to the Embassy to attend an award ceremony recognizing the security guard who did an outstanding job by helping catch the culprit who planted a powdered substance at the Station Manager's residence.

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

Station personnel retrieved several transmitter-specific transformers and vacuum capacitors from the now decommissioned Site A. The components were tested and placed into the Station's inventory.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6), Investigative Counsel of the Committee on Foreign Relations (U.S. Senate), (b) (6), Director of Global Operations, (b) (6) and (b) (6), Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB).

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

(b) (6), T/EOS/N, visited the Station on his way to Cyprus. During his visit, the Station finalized initial planning for the inspection of the Lampertheim antennas. The inspection will be done by riggers from other IBB stations and supervised by (b) (6).

Notice to Proceed was issued for the cleaning and repainting of the Cyprus MW towers. In addition to the repainting, about 20 corroded structural tower members will be replaced.

Station staff worked with personnel at the NCC in Washington, IBB Kuwait and IBB Philippines to delete 30 virtual channels from the Hotbird satellite. All went well.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) were invited to the Consulate General Frankfurt to receive recognition awards. (b) (6) received recognition for 30 years of service and (b) (6) was recognized for his 10 years of service. Congratulations to (b) (6) and (b) (6) and many thanks for their years of great service.

Several monitoring links to our FM sites in Iraq have been lost completely. The contractor is reporting that due to the ongoing "local war", he lost the provider supporting the Vsat systems, which are used for the monitoring equipment. He is trying to recover these links but will need time to get new contracts in place, and he also has problems contacting his on-site technical staffs. Therefore, monitoring capabilities are limited for Iraq. According to the contractor, all sites are in operation except Mosul, Tikrit, Ramadi and Al Amarah (RFI 89.6), which are off-the-air.

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

With 5,777.5 scheduled program hours, there were 18.34 hours of irregularities that reduced Station Availability to 99.73% for the month. On August 16th, 13.98 hours of those outage hours were caused by a two-hour commercial power outage on the Ministry of Electricity & Water's (MEW) 11 kV mains due to a line fault near Jahra. The remaining hours lost were due to an assortment of reasons, including six minutes of unscheduled down time to apprehend a small venomous snake that was observed in the solid state module cage area of transmitter KWT-A.

The new U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, Douglas A. Silliman, and the new Deputy Chief of Mission, (b) (6), visited the Station on August 28th. They were given a video briefing on the Kuwait Station's history, followed by a guided tour and a brief meeting with the staff. It should be noted that this ambassador had only arrived at Post exactly one week before making a visit, something that has been unprecedented in the past. Station management looks forward to working with the Embassy's new Front Office team.

This month, Station technicians worked closely with NCC personnel in Washington and their counterparts in IBB Germany and IBB Philippines to perform a clean-up of the Hotbird satellite's virtual channels. The Hotbird channel clean-up also affected the virtual channel used for the seven Morocco FM's.

Station personnel provided technical support for IBB FM transmitter sites in Accra, Ghana, Ajloun, Jordan and Al Hillah, Iraq.

The Station issued a Notice to Proceed to Jaggard Wireless to begin their work to paint the tower sections for the planned dipole and Rhombic HF antennas. Because of prevailing host-country regulations, the Station also provided a routine degree of assistance in securing a visa for their supervisor and helping in clearing the specialized paint through Kuwaiti Customs.

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

Tinian operations had 99.89% reliability during this month with 1,864.75 hours of scheduled broadcasts resulting in 2.02 hours of program outage. The outages were primarily transmitter and antenna related.

Saipan operations had 99.70 % reliability during this month with 801.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 2.43 hours of program outage. The outages were primarily antenna, transmitter and power related. The power outages were the result of four commercial power losses.

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

The Station's overall availability for the month was 99.9%. There was only one major failure when transmitter PHT-12 sustained heavy damage on its L60 drive gear. The L60 inductor assembly was pulled out of circuit and rehabilitated while the interior cabinet was cleaned. The other harmonic filter network components were also inspected, lubricated and re-calibrated. Vector impedance measurements were performed and the new presets were entered. The transmitter resumed normal operations the following day.

The Station also encountered MPLS circuit loss on August 5th, from 1251 to 1736 UTC (coordinated universal time). It was caused by a major AIS (alarm indication signal) alarm at Sampaloc (Manila). The circuit was manually re-routed by the Station's local provider to avoid the faulty segment.

A Station Ford F-150 pickup truck was sandwiched by the linear crash gate at the Station's gate #2. The incident occurred when the linear gate motion sensor malfunctioned during vehicle entry causing the gate to hit the vehicle causing cosmetic damage to the left side fender and driver's door. An emergency power off button was installed to correct the problem.

Four "nipa huts" were installed at the Tinang site, with three others expected in the near future. This is part of the Station's efforts to comply with both IBB and embassy smoking policies. Each hut is designated as an authorized smoking area, and has been strategically placed to not be within 25-feet of a building entry way or air intake, and not within 100-feet of any hazardous or flammable storage areas.

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

Contractor M&R work began early this month on the Power Plant roof and exhaust fan replacement project, and was completed at end of month. The roof of the Warehouse was being worked on at end of month.

Station personnel visited the Cantagalo District police at their invitation. Station is evaluating their list of needs to determine what assistance the Station might provide.

American Embassy Libreville's Medical Officer (b) (6) visited Sao Tome to review the availability of medical and morgue facilities, update FSO medical clearances, and provide training on the Ebola virus outbreak with techniques for avoiding infection. She also restocked the Station pharmacy and removed expired medications.

Canadian High Commissioner (b) (6) visited the Station for a site tour.

Corrosion control, priming and painting was completed on antenna tower #10.

The Station wishes to recognize and thank Office of Contracts' (b) (6) for her assistance in renewing its Security and B&G contracts for a final six months.

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

(b) (6), State Diplomatic Security, visited the Station and conducted weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training for the Station staff.

New Antenna Technician (b) (6) joined the IBB Sri Lanka staff.

Eighteen students and their lecturer from the International College of Business and Technology (ICBT) visited the Station for a tour.

The Mission's Summer Awards ceremony took place at the US Embassy. Two of IBB's Lead Radio Technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6), received their 20 year service certificates and Lapel pins from the Ambassador.

The annual festival at the Snake Shrine Temple adjacent to the Station was held this month. As done in the past, the Station supplied drinking water and electrical power, and the B&G contractor supplied the fire wood and coconuts.

The Station's antenna crew completely refurbished antenna 49L2, while the contractor completed replacing the nuts and bolts on the north array.

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

This month, Mr. Clifford George, T/CN in Washington and (b) (6), IBB Philippines visited the Shortwave Transmitter Plant at Udorn and the Medium Wave Transmitter Plant at Rasom, and worked with several members of the Plant staffs to install and set up a Cisco Call Manager system which will replace the old Redwood PBX (telephone) system. The installation was complicated by the presence of two remote sites at Udorn, the Transmitter Building and the Facilities Building, and a distant site at Rasom north of Bangkok. These distant sites are interconnected by a commercial MPLS circuit. Clifford and (b) (6) concluded the bulk of their work by 19 August and departed Post on 20 August. Various issues remain to be resolved and the old Redwood PBX remains in service while these open issues with the Call Manager are being resolved.

Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) (b) (6) traveled to Udorn with his replacement, ARSO (b) (6), and (b) (6), a trainer from Department of State in Washington to present biological, chemical and weapons of mass destruction refresher training to the staff. While at the site, they reviewed and evaluated the local guard force and familiarized the new ARSO with the Station.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Transmitter Plant Operations staff and the Maintenance staff, the Station enjoyed an exceptional level of availability for the month at 99.98%; only 26 minutes of air time were lost during the entire month of August. Congratulations to the staff for reaching this high level of availability.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The FY14 M&R three-year plan was approved by the TSI Director on December 5, 2013. Due to the Continuing Resolution and other budgetary issues, funding was allocated at several junctures, with the final allocation made on April 16, 2014, bringing the total for FY 2014 to \$3,363,178. As a result of the funding allocated to the stations, many different M&R projects are underway or pending award by end of the fiscal year. In addition, the project call process for FY 2015 is continuing; the project call responses from the stations have been received, consolidated into binders, and made available to the Facilities Planning Board for review.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014. The construction work associated with the modification is underway. In addition, the electrical sub-contractor is working on finalizing the grounding grid. As mentioned last month, a cure letter was sent to the contractor on August 25, 2014. The CO is preparing a response to the contractor's cure letter response. CO has requested GSA Legal review, which is pending. GSA team requested a revised detailed interruption plan due on September 29, 2014. Once the interruption/cut-over plan is approved, significant progress is expected. However, the main issue with the interruption plan is the unwillingness by the electrical sub-contractor to work on energized equipment.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA has advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior has received and approved Beaufort County's application for the property. However, Beaufort County has not yet accepted the property, and is in discussions with the Department of Interior over "land use" issues.

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

The Directors of the IBB Office of Contracts and Botswana Telecommunications Corporations Limited (BTCL) signed the Service Level Agreement, which will allow IBB Botswana to phase-out its current data delivery system which uses terrestrial satellite to provide "intranet" connectivity, and initially replace it with a 10 megabyte data line and microwave link supplied by BTCL (Phase I). Phase II of this agreement will replace the 10 megabyte data line with a 20 megabyte data line, with the existing microwave being replaced by a direct fiber line from BTCL to the IBB Botswana facility.

The Station was visited by the Embassy's Information Management Officer, (b) (6), who toured the Station and performed an unannounced cash count.

A group of 32 people from the Selebi Phikwe Education Centre visited the Station for a tour.

Transmitter Bot-3 lost three hours and thirty minutes of broadcast time due to defective contactors on the control circuitry of the intermediate power amplifier (IPA) filament and power amplifier (PA) screen circuit.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in September, visitors for the month included students from the Pitt Community College Electronics Engineering Technology class, and (b) (6) and associates of LBA Technology.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany, traveled to IBB Kuwait to complete the automation upgrades. Kudos to the Kuwait and Germany teams for their outstanding work on this project.

(b) (6), IBB Germany, also traveled to IBB Kuwait during the month to perform a satellite systems configurations assessment.

The project to repaint the Cyprus MW towers is almost complete. The structural reinforcing was completed as well as the cleaning and repainting. Only minor items remain. Thanks to the efforts and support of the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, IBB Germany was exempted from paying any value added tax (VAT).

In Afghanistan, the Station's mechanical contractor travelled to several FM sites to fix problems with malfunctioning generators.

The Cyprus Station was hit by a lightning strike which caused a mismatch in the transmitter's output. After intensive troubleshooting, the problem was detected and resolved.

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

IBB Germany Automation Team members (b) (6) and (b) (6) were at the Station to perform a Station Automation System (SAS) upgrade, which included upgrading the control and monitoring systems for the two FM transmitters at Liberation Tower, and conducting training for the technical staff on programming the new programmable logic controller (PLC) and OPCON Visual Basic.

IBB Germany's Plant Supervisor, (b) (6) visited the Station to perform a satellite systems configurations assessment.

Station personnel provided technical support to the IBB FM transmitter sites located in Sierra Leone, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Misrata, Libya and Morocco. In addition, the Station Manager signed an agreement and obligated funds for the establishment of another IBB 24/7 FM transmitter operation in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The Station submitted a Diplomatic Note to Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request an additional microwave frequency between the Station and Liberation Tower in order to establish a 100 Mbps data link for future MPLS connectivity.

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

Tinian operations had 99.4% reliability during the month. There were 1,717.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, and 10.36 hours of program outages. A single event, related to the loss of an automated audio switcher, accounted for 5.18 hours of the total monthly program outages. This outage occurred during remote operations.

Saipan operations had 99.85% reliability during this month. There were 754.50 hours of scheduled broadcast, and 1.23 hours of program outages. Four commercial power outages encountered this month accounted for .64 hours of the program loss time.

IBB Philippines Station Manager, who is responsible for IBB Northern Marianas, visited the Saipan and Tinian sites this month.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Total program outages for the month were 14.03 hours of which 13.28 hours were caused by the loss of the program feed on the 16th, 18th, 19th and 29th due to problems at the Network Control Center in Washington.

The migration from the Pacific Ocean Relay (POR) satellite system circuit to the Poro terrestrial lease line circuit was successfully implemented.

The Station's primary MPLS Circuit encountered total outages of nine hours and 13 minutes this month. The longest outage lasted two hours and 54 minutes, with an unknown cause.

Building and Grounds unit completed the renovation and expansion of the very congested motor pool office. The LES drivers now have a much improved work environment and can access the travel schedule with the use of a computer.

Two consecutive typhoons, Luis and Mario, hit the Poro MW Transmitter Site this month. Poro's security fencing sustained damage at three locations. The damage has been, or is in the process of being, repaired.

The Station Manager and members of the Station's Management Team participated in the Crisis Management Exercises at the Embassy in Manila. The Station is now revising its Emergency Action Plan, which will be included as annexes to Embassy's Emergency Action Plan.

(b) (6), Mechanical Supervisor (40 years of service), and (b) (6), Radio Technician, (34 years of service) attended the U.S. Embassy Retirement Ceremony. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded by Chargé d'affaires, Brian L. Goldbeck and Plaques of Appreciation were awarded by the Station Manager to both of these retirees for their dedicated and distinguished service to the U.S. Government.

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

Contracted M&R work was completed on the power plant roof, warehouse roof and power plant exhaust fan.

An unannounced fire drill was conducted. Building evacuations were timely and Fire Brigade response was excellent.

The Station's Facilities Supervisor travelled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for one day of training on the Defense Logistics Agency's new online fuel ordering system.

The Station donated eight excess tires to the Cantagalo District for use on the district's garbage trucks. These tires only fit on the Station's Mitsubishi bus, which is no longer in the Station's inventory.

Motor Pool and Building & Grounds personnel worked together to rebuild the bed and bed support structure of the Station's stake bed truck. The new bed and front bumper got paint jobs and the truck looks like new.

Station wishes to recognize Budget & Finance Specialist (b) (6) for her outstanding management of the Station's FY14 budget and closeout.

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

IBB Philippine's Radio Technician (b) (6) departed after a busy schedule of assisting his IBB Philippines colleague (b) (6) with the installation of the new CISCO Call Manager System. (b) (6) did a great job for the Station and his work is much appreciated.

The Station hosted a representational event at the Kingsbury in Colombo for IBB's contacts at the Ministry of External Affairs, who have always been very helpful in speeding the visa issuing process for the Station's temporary duty visitors, and officials from the Government Treasury, who have been cordial in accommodating delays, if any, for payment of the Station's lease.

The Station hosted a luncheon for the area's Political Representative, Provincial Council Minister, (b) (6), who is the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Products and Development, Minor Irrigation and Agrarian Development for the North Western Province. The event took place at the Club Palm Bay, and was organized to further strengthen the relationship between the Minister's office and the Station.

The Station hosted a luncheon for the senior members of the Chilaw, Marawilla and Wennappuwa Police Departments at the Club Palm Bay. In attendance were higher ranking officers from the three Police Departments, security personnel from the Embassy Colombo, the Station Manager, and the Assistant Officer in Charge of the Station's guard force. The event was organized to foster better relations with area police personnel, who provide the Station with security and territorial protection.

(b) (6)

The contractor completed replacing the corroded nuts, bolts, and tower hardware for the North antenna array. Station staff inspected the work and accepted it.

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

The Facilities Plant Supervisor traveled to Rasom (MW Site) to review the final work at the new water well. An unpaved roadway was installed to connect an established partial roadway to the new well. A small concrete pad was installed around the well site and the project is now complete.

The Station has a newly installed Cisco Call Manager (CM) telephone system in service now, but with numerous problems and configuration issues. The old Redwood system remains the primary phone system while work on the CM continues. To this end, three technicians attended "Implementing Cisco Unified CM, Part 1 training and two more technicians attended Part 2 of the Cisco training.

The Ban Dung Hospital presented CPR and First Aid refresher training to the Udorn staff.

The Transmitter Plant Supervisor and a senior technician from Udorn traveled to Seoul, South Korea to install VOA satellite equipment and a dish at a new permanent location for the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) in Seoul.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: In spite of funding delays last fiscal year, almost all of the \$3.363 M of FY 2014 funds was obligated, covering much needed M&R projects around the network. At least nine awards were made in

the final days of the fiscal year. Station Managers have responded to the annual M&R projects call. The station responses are being reviewed and a draft FY15 M&R Plan will be prepared in the coming weeks.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014. Shop drawings were not received until October 6, 2014 and have been rejected twice. We received a revised interruption plan, which decreased the power outage time from 4 hours to 2 hours. At the same time, the CO requested GSA Legal to review the specifications regarding the requirements for power interruption. As a result, the CO indicated that tracing and temporary power for implementation of the power cut-over were not included in the contract and requested to develop a RFP for the additional work. GSA has mentioned that if IBB doesn't accept the change, or if GSA/IBB can't reach a reasonable agreement with the contractor once the RFP is issued, the CO will terminate the contract by convenience.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior approved Beaufort County's application for the property. According to the County Manager, Beaufort County expects to begin paying for Site A's utilities in December 2014. The County also expects that the property deed transfer will occur in December.

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

While the drought in Botswana continues, the Station's water situation is improving, as its water pipeline project is nearing completion. The pipeline will bring water from the well at the Medium Wave Site when required to keep the three 10,000 liter water tanks at the Shortwave Site filled. This process will "automate" the refill process, which is now done manually.

The Station Manger traveled to South Africa to meet with Richard Cai, T/EOS/N and two engineers from Hansen Engineering. The purpose of the visit was to discuss an air quality study to determine the specifications for an air filtration system. The system is needed as IBB Botswana sits downwind from the local smelter that releases sulfur emissions that are well above US and International standards.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in October, transmitter GB-5 was removed from service to replace the electro-mechanical tuning position units with a computer controlled system. The replacement system was designed in-house and includes the ability to automatically preset the transmitter tuning networks to the operating frequency prior to the application of high voltage. Final tuning element calibration is pending. A similar system was installed in transmitter GB-6 and continues to operate normally.

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

The Station was visited by an OIG representative, (b) (6), who was conducting a review of IBB and RFE/RL operations in Afghanistan.

(b) (6), T/EB, visited the Station on his way back from Jordan, where he and (b) (6), IBB Germany, conducted training sessions for affiliates. All indications are that the training was well received and achieved the goal of improving the operations of our affiliates in Iraq and Jordan.

IBB Germany's (b) (6) and (b) (6) completed their procurement training and have been issued renewed Contracting Warrants. Kudos for all the hard work to get this accomplished.

The Embassy in Berlin has instituted a five-year limit to tours for American FSOs, which will be enforced at the end of all current tours. Per this new policy, if an FSO has had five or more consecutive years at post, he or she will have to transfer out at the end of the current tour.

The Kabul Afghanistan FM transmitter experienced severe interference on the Indian Ocean Relay (IOR) program feed when a new local TV transmitter was put on air at Mt. Asumai. IBB Germany's contractor was able to locate and install a filter for the feed dish. Once the filter was installed, the receive reliability improved significantly.

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

Contractor painting of the multiple tower sections for the two new HF antennas was roughly 75% complete by the end of the month. For the most part, the weather has cooperated and the work is on schedule, in spite of a one week pause for the Eid Al-Adha local holidays.

The Station had one visitor from Washington this month when IBB Senior Electronic Engineer, Daniel Maxwell, arrived on his way to conduct training in Jordan. Daniel spent a great deal of time with Resident Engineer Sheldon Daitch and Transmitter Plant Supervisor (b) (6) reviewing Kuwait's maintenance program, as it was going to be used as an example model for teaching the Jordanians. Daniel also received extensive briefings on IBB Kuwait's technical and administrative support of IBB subsidiary FM stations in the Middle East and Africa.

The Station provided technical support for the following VOA FM 24/7 transmitter sites: Kigali, Rwanda, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Al Hillah (Shomali), Iraq and Dubai, UAE.

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

On 6 October, the Saipan and Tinian Transmitting Sites suffered the effects of Super Typhoon Vong Fong. The typhoon passed over the area as a Category 2 Typhoon. As a result, the transmitting sites sustained damage to eight of the SW antennas. As the repairs progressed, Station personnel, working with the NCC in Washington, utilized all available assets to meet the broadcast mission. The repairs were completed in about 3-weeks, and the sites returned to normal operations on 24 October.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from IBB Philippines, and (b) (6) from TSI in Washington, visited both transmitting sites. During their stay, they worked on the 152 Network Server migrations, installation of new servers and workstations, and microwave integrations to decommission the Pacific Ocean Relay (POR) satellite links in support of the shift to terrestrial delivered data.

(b) (6), an investigator with the IBB Office of Security, visited the Station to complete a background investigation and other related duties.

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

A team of IT specialists from Washington (b) (6) visited the Tinang site to help complete system upgrades. Working alongside the Station staff, they successfully

replaced the Station's file server and domain controller with a new Windows 2012 R2 Hyper V File Server. Obsolete Windows XP workstations were also replaced with units running Windows 7. Unfortunately, the provided backup system is not functioning and the Station's previous RoboCopy software disk backup system is not compatible with the new server, leaving the Station vulnerable to data loss. Mr. El-Halaby recommended that the Station research a new software backup system to address this requirement.

With successful installation and configuration of a new IPSec router, the Poro Transmitting site and IBB Marianas have migrated off of the POR satellite. With the IBB Marianas terrestrial feed now providing a direct link to Washington, Tinian and Saipan are now enjoying much faster data and internet connectivity. A new checkpoint firewall was also installed in Tinang for Philippines connectivity. Once the Station completes its local Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) circuit upgrade, all regular internet traffic will go through the firewall to the local PLDT circuit, while the IBB network will go through the Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) circuit.

The Station's Computer Management Specialist traveled to IBB Sri Lanka and successfully installed and configured their Call Manager System. It involved cable wiring, installation of a network router and switches, and voice gateway configuration.

A hearty "welcome aboard" goes out to Ms. (b) (6), the Station's new admin clerk. (b) (6) will help relieve the administrative backlog brought on by high attrition and a prolonged hiring freeze. She will serve as the Station's primary travel clerk (tickets, vouchering, and all that is E2) and be responsible for handling all Station HR matters.

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

On October 1st, low voltage at the power plant's critical 24VDC supply resulted in all generators shutting down. As a result, eight minutes of Net B English program were lost on transmitter SAO-2. In addition, on October 10th, generator #5 faulted with an under/overvoltage indication, causing the engine to shut down. Troubleshooting this generator was still underway at end of the month.

On October 30th, transmitter SAO-5 lost thirty minutes of Hausa and sixty minutes of French programs due to a defective PA tube. The tube shorted out, causing the boiler to overheat. The boiler's O-ring melted, allowing the water spilling from the base of the boiler to completely flood the enclosure cabinet. As a result, several resistors, coils and diodes were destroyed. The B14 broadcast schedule does not allow substitution of SAO-5 between 0500 and 0630 hours, as no suitable antenna is available.

On October 14th, it was announced that the Independent Democratic Action (ADI) Party was the big winner of legislative and municipal elections in Sao Tome and Principe (STP), getting 33 of the 55 seats in the parliament of STP. ADI also won four of the six district councils. This clear majority by ADI is hoped to bode well for legislative progress in the new government.

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

Operations were routine except for the heavy showers experienced during the latter part of the month, which hindered antenna work.

The Station said farewell to long-time LES Transmitter Plant Supervisory Radio Technician (Maintenance) (b) (6) at a function organized for him by the Station staff at the Grand Hotel Wennappuwa. (b) (6) was leaving IBB to concentrate on his personal business.

IBB Philippines Computer Management Specialist (b) (6), who was at the Station to install the CISCO Call Manager System, departed the Station after completing the installation, which required her to be away from IBB Philippines for one and a half months.

The much awaited interviews for the recruitment of the Admin. Management Specialist took place during the month. Four candidates were interviewed, resulting in the selection of Mrs. (b) (6) to fill the vacancy.

The Facilities Plant warmly welcomed three new Antenna Technicians - (b) (6), (b) (6), and (b) (6). Their arrival increased the total number of Antenna Technicians to six, leaving one more vacant Antenna Technician position to be filled.

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

With assistance from Global Financial Services (GFS) Charleston and GFS Bangkok, the Station finally succeeded in building a standalone terminal capable of running SQL Server and the new COAST Cashiering software, which is now required by the U.S. Disbursing Office (USDO) to preserve our petty cash operation. This new application replaces the Win ACS application which has been in use for the past few years.

Three Radio Technicians from Udorn travelled to the Rasom site to cross train with the Rasom staff and continue troubleshooting failures in the low voltage power supplies (LVPS) in the power blocks of the medium wave transmitter. All power supplies were recently repaired in the shop at Udorn and are now installed back into the transmitter for evaluation. In addition, two more technicians from Udorn worked at Rasom cross training on the Harris DX-1000 transmitter.

General (b) (6), Chief of the committee that monitors and evaluates the performance of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC), and a delegation of 20 members of the NBTC toured the Station at Udorn.

The Station sent two technicians to Cambodia at the request of Regional Office of Marketing and Program Placement (OMPP) in Bangkok. Affiliated Stations in Cambodia required immediate attention to restore and improve program quality of VOA programs carried on FM Stations there.

Cashier Monitor (b) (6) traveled from the USDO at the Embassy to Udorn to conduct an audit of the Station's cashier operations. This was a routine cashier audit consisting of about 130 questions and conducted every five years. Her audit revealed a healthy petty cash operation with only very minor adjustments required, and the Station received a clean bill of health. The Station's petty cash operation is now prepared to "go live" with COAST cashiering.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: In late FY 2014, the Station Managers responded to the annual M&R projects call. Their responses have been reviewed and used to prepare a draft FY15 M&R Plan, which is expected to be ready for TSI approval next month.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two rejections it was approved on November 21, 2014. We were working on developing a RFP for tracing and temporary power as directed by CO. This was in an effort to resolve the interruption plan issue. In discussions with GSA, we realized that this was not going to move the project in the right direction and also was not a cost effective solution. We decided to once again present the option of de-scoping and doing the work energized, which GSA finally agree to in response to communications with Global Operations Director André Mendes. Currently, we are preparing a RFP for an electrical contractor to do the work energized. In addition, GSA has requested an Interagency Agreement and Delegation of Authority from BBG to do this work. On site, work continues to be slow, with ARRIBA concentrating on the items in the deficiency list.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2014

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. GSA advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior approved Beaufort County's application for the property. The Beaufort County Manager had previously indicated that the County expected the property deed transfer to occur in January 2015, and that the County would begin paying for Site A's utilities at that time. However, Beaufort County appears to be dragging its feet over accepting responsibility for the site because the County is still pursuing a request for authorization to use a portion of the site for a wind or solar power initiative that would generate income that could be used to offset the cost of operating the envisioned park/recreational facility. It remains to seen whether this issue will derail finalization of the property transfer to Beaufort County.

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

What started out to be a proper rainy season has been reduced to a "spurt". The dam located in Gaborone has for the most part failed as it is sitting at 4% capacity. Along with the water shortage, the country is still "load shedding" to reduce the amount of electricity it receives (at a premium cost) from neighboring countries. However, the Botswana Transmitting Station is now self-sufficient with the completion of the water pipeline, which brings water from the well at the MW site to the SW site, and a very successful 48-hour testing of all the Station's generators.

The Botswana Power Company failed to bill the Embassy for its power use since 2012. The cost of unpaid bills will be spread across the six ICASS contributing agencies, including IBB. The Embassy assured the ICASS budget committee that they don't expect this to ever happen again.

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

The project to replace the original mechanical tuning servo system with a computerized auto preset system is complete. Frequency band data has been down loaded to the system and the affected transmitter has been returned to service.

Students from the Beaufort Community College Engineering Technology class toured the facility.

Representatives from McNaughton-McKay visited the site to obtain data in support of the programmable logic controller (PLC) upgrade project.

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

The Station continues to work with MCON and legal to craft the Afghanistan support contract. The Station also continues to prepare for the installation of the Lampertheim VoIP phone system scheduled for December.

Fuel quality continues to be an issue in Afghanistan. The Station has increased the number of fuel cleaning systems at all sites. So far, these systems have been able to manage the water content. The key here is to keep these systems operational and clean the filters. Kudos to Christoph Cholewa, IBB Germany, for his perseverance in getting these systems installed and maintained.

The Station's mechanical contractor in Afghanistan travelled to several FM sites to check and resolve problems with the generators. Consumable parts for the generators were picked up from Caterpillar dealer in Kabul and delivered to all FM sites.

At the Kabul FM site, an additional satellite dish for receiving AsiaSat (Asia satellite) was installed and successful tested. This dish provides redundancy in the event of reception problems.

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

With the much cooler weather, outdoor work has accelerated. The Facilities Supervisor completed installation of a new ready-water system out at the 1548 KHz seven tower antenna array. This simple system will provide on-site water for technicians performing monthly scheduled maintenance in the array. Previous to this installation, technicians had to haul water by hand from the main building.

Contractor Silver Chain began work on the M&R project to clear sand drifts and repair fence fabric along the Station's 12 kilometers of double chain-link outer perimeter security fencing. Multiple years of wind-blown sand had accumulated, mostly along the northern and western legs, almost completely burying some areas. In addition, intrusions by seasonal 'truffle' hunters and wind-blown debris had taken a toll on the fencing in several sections.

Contractor Jaggard Wireless completed painting work on the tower sections to be used for the two new HF antenna systems.

A new Washington supplied 3.4m Prodelin satellite dish was installed at the Abidjan VOA 24/7 location by (b) (6) of DHDCOM services. This dish replaces a locally procured mesh dish, which while serving its purpose when new, had to be replaced as time and weather had taken its toll on the dish.

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

Tinian operations had 99.76% reliability during this month with 1,705 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 4.17 hours of program outage, and 34 off/on events. There were two commercial power outages that resulted in 1.97 hours of program loss time.

Saipan operations had 99.98% reliability during this month with 980.5 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.23 hours of program outage, and 7 off/on events. There were two commercial power outages encountered that resulted in no program loss time.

(b) (6), IBB Philippines, and (b) (6), IBB Kuwait, visited the site to survey installation and safety procedures connected with the guy wire installation project, which is targeted for March 2015.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The Station Manager meet with the Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) to discuss repeated construction-related damage to the Poro Transmitting Site's fiber telecommunication lines. There was a spoken consensus that the offending casino was liable for this damage, and that immediate steps should be taken to ensure these incidents do not happen again. The Station is now awaiting PPMC prepared minutes of that meeting, and a remediation proposal from the casino, to document this agreement.

The Facilities Supervisor visited IBB Marianas to conduct a routine inspection and a review of scheduled and ongoing projects. Mr. White's visit coincided with the arrival of IBB Kuwait's Antenna Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6), who was on site to complete a pre-installation survey for the guy wire replacement project scheduled for March 2015.

Larry Chiu, IBB Philippines returned from IBB Marianas after a very fruitful trip working with a team of IT specialists from Washington on the SIS migration and hardware refresh projects. Mr. Hussain dealt with the transfer of all IBB 152 network traffic from the Pacific Ocean Relay (POR) satellite to terrestrial circuits. Two IPSEC tunnels were created: the first terminating in Washington for government related data; and the second terminating at the Tinang Transmitting Site for all VoIP packets going to Tinang, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Mr. Saxon completed the firewall installation for all non-IBB data that will go to the local Telco internet. Mr. El-Halaby and Mr. Kurtic facilitated the installation and configuration of new Windows 2012 file servers and Windows 7 workstations.

On the 17th, the Station lost MPLS-2 and IGATE circuit connection due to a Telco multiplexer (mux) outage. Circumstances surrounding the outage were curious, as it coincided with the reported State Department hack on the same date. The loss of MPLS connectivity severed internet, data and email traffic to the Philippines, Marianas, Sri Lanka and Thailand Stations. As a precautionary measure, Telco also suspended the automation circuit between Tinang and Marianas for the duration of the outage.

The Station cashier and alternates attended training at the Embassy in advance of the new COAST Cashier system implementation. The Station Manager and Admin Supervisor also attended a half-day course to familiarize themselves with their new roles. The conversion from WinACS took place on the 20th.

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

On November 17th, the Station was locked out of Global OpenNet (GO) used by the Station to communicate with the Regional Financial Management System (RFMS). Apparently, the State Department systems had been hacked in conjunction with the White House networks back in October. The Station was informed by the Embassy Information Management Officer that it will not regain access until new security tokens (Key Fobs) are distributed by State in Washington, likely in mid-December.

On November 21st, Station computer network traffic was re-routed off of the SIS to the commercial fiber circuit. Network performance is greatly improved and stable. The Station installed a HQ-provided router to be used for the dedicated MPLS circuit to Washington. The router is configured and the local telecom provider is performing loopback tests on the circuit. Kudos to Ron Harris, IBB Sao Tome, for coordinating all the various stakeholders and reaching this critical goal.

Former IBB Sao Tome employee (b) (6) was elected President of the National Assembly by his peers.

At 8 am on November 25th, the MT African Chaser arrived bearing a DF2 diesel fuel delivery of 293,000 gallons. Weather cooperated and the offload was uneventful, completed by the following day at noon.

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

The new Admin Management Specialist, (b) (6), joined the staff on the 2nd.

The first ever Locally Employed Staff (LES) Association's get-together organized by the LES Committee was a roaring success. It was attended by most of the staff and was held at the Embassy Colombo's Car Park.

On the 20th, all the Station staff attended a town-hall meeting conducted by the Station Manager. The purpose of the meeting was to appreciate the teamwork displayed by the Antenna crew, Machinist, Storekeeper, Assistant Storekeeper, and Procurement Agent. The combined effort paved the way for successful completion of the repairs to the fallen antennas. Following the town hall meeting, High Voltage Electrical Safety Training was conducted by the Station Manager for all Facilities and Transmitter Plant Staff.

(b) (6), Embassy Information Management Officer (IMO), (b) (6) Embassy Management Officer and visiting State Department Official (b) (6) paid a courtesy call at the Station. This was the very first visit to the Station for the Management Officer and IMO.

The Station received two Salisbury SK40 Arc Flash Protection kits and the Station Manager provided training to all the technical staff on the proper use of the kits and potential dangers, if not used correctly. Further, he made it mandatory that all transmitter plant staff use it when working with high voltage.

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

The new COAST Cashiering PC and software went live and were placed into service in numerous steps throughout the day. This process required the Station Manager, Computer Management Specialist, Administrative Management Specialist and the Station Class-B Cashier to remain in tele-conference for most of the day, with personnel from the Disbursing Office and Embassy. Fortunately, all went well, though not always smoothly. The Station's COAST operation runs as a standalone terminal rather than with direct VPN connection to State Department's OpenNet system, so several extra or modified steps were required.

The Mission Management Counselor, (b) (6), paid a visit to the site at Udorn to visit the admin staff and tour the Station. (b) (6) also paid a courtesy call on the DEA offices in Udorn before returning to the Embassy.

The Station Manager and the senior staff hosted (b) (6), the Deputy Police Chief in Ban Dung, along with seven members of his senior staff at the Ban Dung Buri restaurant on the 14th for lunch. Station vehicles with Embassy plates have been stopped for inspection on remote country roads near the Station following shift change on a couple of occasions in past weeks, and the station wanted to express its security concerns. The Embassy's Regional Security Officer has also been made aware of these stops.

An unusual fault occurred in transmitter UDO-3. The ring modulator card in the solid state modulator (SSM) failed in a manner that caused all of the power switch modules in the SSM to stop circulating in the ON mode. Appreciable arcing in the transmitter occurred because full peak plate voltage was applied continuously. This resulted in the failure of the PA tube, TH-558, which makes it a significant failure in term of the overall cost. The tube failed with 26,000 plate hours.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded in FY15, and which could include: ongoing projects; deferred projects; and others that may be urgent due to mission need, safety or health issues, required station automation and related improvements, or to preserve our investment.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two rejections it was approved on November 21, 2014. The work has started but stopped due to a change in the routing. ARRIBA just submitted a revised plan. In the meantime, the RFP for an electrical contractor to do the work energized was finalized and the procurement process has been initiated. GSA requested an Interagency Agreement and Delegation of Authority from BBG to do this work, which has been submitted to GSA. Additional work on site includes the items on the deficiency list.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. In July 2013 GSA advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior approved Beaufort County's application for the property. The Beaufort County Manager had previously indicated that the County expected the property deed transfer to occur in January 2015, and that the County would begin paying for Site A's utilities at that time. However, Beaufort County appears to be dragging its feet over accepting responsibility for the site because the County is still pursuing a request for authorization to use a portion of the site for generation of income that could be used to offset the cost of operating the envisioned park/recreational facility. As a result of a recent meeting, Beaufort County was given until the first week of February to take over the paying of the electric bill.

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The outgoing year ended on a high note as indicated by the Station and transmitter availability figures (99.84% and 99.91% respectively). Kudos to the IBB Botswana technical staff and all of the supporting B&G crew for an outstanding job minimizing program outage hours.

M&R Project 1416, Installation of Pipes to Draw Water from MW to SW Site, was successfully completed. With the completion of this project, the Station will cease to use portable water for irrigation and other activities where potable water is not necessary.

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

The project to replace the heat exchanger on transmitter GB-7 was completed, and the transmitter was returned to normal operation.

(b) (6) of SWLing.com (a shortwave internet site) and several friends toured the facility.

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

The VoIP telephone system was successfully installed at Lampertheim. Thanks to (b) (6), T/CT in Washington, for coming to the Station to assist.

The Kabul, Afghanistan FM is experiencing random interference to the satellite program feed. Efforts are ongoing to identify the culprit. This is not an easy problem to resolve due to the congestion of transmitters on the site.

At the request of the IBB Marketing Office in Prague, 10 new affiliate stations in Serbia were supported with new dish installations and satellite receivers.

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

The contractor, Silver Chain, continued the task of clearing the Station's perimeter fence line of accumulated drifted sand. At the request of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) garrison, the Station directed the contractor to dump several loads of sand across the open space between the fence line and the highway. This action effectively blocked the multiple dirt paths that local campers were using to drive vehicles and ATVs up and down in front of the Station property line, at all times of day and night. Besides enhancing the Station's security, this diversion kept vehicle traffic away from the KNG garrison and saved the contractor a good amount of diesel fuel in the process.

The work of clearing drifted sand from around the front gate area exposed very shallowly buried power and fiber optic camera cables between the gates. It was decided to use this opportunity to upgrade the cabling in this area to higher standards.

An engineering team from Hanson surveyed the site for the planned SW building expansion and HF antenna installations.

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

Tinian operations had 99.84% reliability during this month. There were 1,756.0 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 2.77 hours of program outages, which primarily were transmitter and antenna related. There were no commercial power outage encountered this month.

Saipan operations had 99.92% reliability during this month. There were 1,101.5 hours of scheduled broadcast with less than an hour (0.93) of program outages, which were primarily transmitter related. There were five commercial power outages encountered this month that resulted in 0.15 hours of program loss time.

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

The Station experienced 18.4 hours of program outages this month. The majority (15.5 hours) of these outages were not related to Station operations, but were caused by a phone company feed problem at the Philippines Broadcasting Service's Master Control Room.

The Station completed the upgrade of Tinang's multiprotocol labeling switching (MPLS-1) from 60Mb to 100Mb.

The Embassy Medical Unit administered flu vaccines to Tinang personnel.

Station employees (b) (6) and (b) (6) completed the weekly food distributions to needy recipients in the five surrounding barangays as part of the Station's civic action program. On

December 12, an additional bag of groceries and fruits were delivered to the recipients as part of the early Christmas gift-giving program.

A total of 83 students, five faculty members and three tour guides from the Manila area participated in tours of the transmitter building during the month.

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

Medical Attaché (b) (6) from the Embassy Libreville visited the Station to administer flu shots and update the Station's pharmacy records.

(b) (6), Information Management Specialist, from the Embassy Libreville visited the Station to perform a site survey for the possible installation of Department of State's OpenNet network. He also requested replacement for the Station's emergency HF radio, which has been inoperable since late 2007.

Cashier Monitor (b) (6) arrived from Paris to conduct her 5-year review of cashier operations at the Station. She suggested adding financial management to the Station's Emergency Action Procedures; otherwise, her report was very positive.

Three of the Station staff traveled to Embassy Libreville to access State's Global OpenNet (GO) system and the Regional Financial Management System (RFMS) to obligate December funding and pay the Station's November invoices. GO remains inaccessible to personnel at the Station, and this travel may need to be repeated. The Station will not regain access to GO until new access tokens (FOBs) are received. The FOBs are currently in a backlog of 41 dip pouches stuck in Johannesburg.

The Station, in conjunction with other Stations, shut down its uplink to the Atlantic Ocean Relay (AOR) satellite, relying instead on terrestrial fiber optic delivery and transmission.

Riggers completed three months of extensive screen rebuild work on antenna #6, replacing all 87 horizontal screen elements.

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

(b) (6), Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) and visiting Regional Security officials (b) (6) and (b) (6) paid an unannounced visit to the Station to carry out a security inspection of the facility.

(b) (6), the Embassy Colombo's Property Supply Supervisor, conducted a physical verification of the stock items issued to the Local Guard Force by the Embassy Colombo.

The Station's two FSN Chauffeurs, (b) (6) and (b) (6), received Safe Driving Awards at the Mission Winter Award Ceremony.

A recently recruited Antenna Technician was terminated due to failure to adhere to safety regulations.

During this month, the Station completely refurbished antenna 340H with new frame cables, and nut & bolt hardware. It also lowered antenna 291H to begin its refurbishment.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December, the release of the Senate report on CIA torture early in the month necessitated the Station Manager's presence at the Embassy for an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting and a subsequent meeting with the Public Affairs Section to discuss the possibility that the report may re-ignite old rumors of a "black prison" at the Udon SW site. The issue faded from view relatively early and never gained much traction in country.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. CFO has established our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, at \$2,567,400 for FY 2015. A few early allotments have been allowed us to address ongoing projects and an emergency repair. In late January a total of \$1,758,000 was transferred to the network stations, with an additional \$595,000 allotted at headquarters in support of ongoing or priority projects. Hence, essentially all available funds have already been allotted or otherwise accounted for.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested an Interagency Agreement and Delegation of Authority from BBG to do this work. We decided to proceed with the procurement process and the contract for the energized work was awarded on January 22, 2015. ARRIBA has started commissioning of the new power distribution system per our request before proceeding with the energized work. At this time, GSA has indicated that we cannot proceed until we received an official approval notification regarding the Delegation of Authority. On site, work is limited to items on the deficiency list and some electrical items.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A has been reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs and GSA is proceeding with the disposal of the site. In July 2013 GSA advised T/EOS/N that the Department of Interior approved Beaufort County's application for the property. The Beaufort County Manager had previously indicated that the County expected the property deed transfer to occur in January 2015, and that the County would begin paying for Site A's utilities at that time. However, this process has taken longer than expected. The County finally signed an Acceptance of Constructive Possession of the property from the National Park Service on February 2nd. It appears that the formal transfer of utilities to Beaufort County will take place in early March.

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The new Chief of Mission, (b) (6) paid a visit to the Station, where he toured the facility and addressed the staff. Ambassador (b) (6) stressed the importance of IBB's mission to deliver news and information throughout the region. Ambassador (b) (6) plans to visit the Station once a quarter.

(b) (6), T/EOS/N in Washington visited the Station to certify the installed maintenance cables on the TCI shortwave antenna towers and inspect the rest of the Station's antenna systems.

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

The M&R project to upgrade the auxiliary generator control system was completed with minimal program disruption due to testing and calibration.

The M&R project to build a new power transformer for transmitter GB-8 is complete. The transformer was delivered and placed on the pad. Conduit modification and final connections are pending.

Due to extremely cold temperatures in the area, the Station was advised by the utility power supplier to curtail power usage for several hours. During this time, all Station power was derived from the auxiliary power generator. No problems were encountered during this time.

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

Station has received funding for two M&R projects - TCI Antenna Inspection & Preventive Maintenance in Lampertheim (\$150,000) and Painting of Djibouti Antenna Towers (\$150,000). The Lampertheim antenna inspection will be done utilizing network and local staff. The repainting of the towers in Djibouti will be contracted out through open competitive bidding.

Station employees (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to IBB Sao Tome to assist with the installation of the new telephone system. The installation is complete and the system is up and working. Great work by all involved at HQ Washington, Germany and Sao Tome.

The Station is in the process of implementing the new Merit Based Compensation Plan recently implemented by State Department for all locally employed staff (LES) employees in Germany. Station staff attended training sessions at the Consulate. It will require a great deal of work initially to convert to the new system, but it should be well worth the effort.

Station continues to work with the Office of Contracts and General Counsel in Washington to finalize the Afghanistan support contract. The current six month extension expires February 28th, so one-month extension will be required. The Station continues to have hope that this contract will be finalized next month.

(b) (6), Deputy Director, Technology Division, Radio Free Europe\Radio Liberty and (b) (6) visited Lampertheim and Biblis to work on the network interface between Lampertheim and Prague. The visit was very beneficial to all.

In Djibouti, the local TRANE dealer has replaced the defective outside air conditioning units of the transmitter building.

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

Transmitter Plant technicians began replacing old incandescent indicator bulbs on the Continental 419-F SW transmitters using in-house modified LEDs. Although the amount of energy savings will be miniscule in the grand scheme of things, the long-term benefits of this retrofit are greatly reduced indicator failures and brighter and more reliable visual operating and fault cues. The Station Manager commended the Transmitter Plant staff on their proactive innovation.

IT system upgrading this month included the replacement of the Wallchart server that handles satellite audio channel scheduling and transmitter program feeds. Also this month, T/I in Washington configured the VAS Gateway Cisco 3900 router connection between Kuwait and Washington to replace the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) tunnel. This action has verifiably improved access speed to 152.x.x.x Domain servers.

Station personnel provided technical support for VOA FM 24/7 transmitter sites at Meknes in Morocco, Ajloun in Jordan, Abidjan in Ivory Coast and Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

The head of the Kuwait Embassy's Health Unit, (b) (6) and one of the unit nurses visited the Station to inspect and replenish First Aid supplies and equipment.

The Embassy sent Diplomatic Notes to Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the Station's pending requests for a new microwave frequency and authorization to permit third-party government broadcasts.

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

Tinian operations had 99.93 % reliability with 1,752.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts resulting in 1.29 hours of program outages. There were no commercial power outages this month.

Saipan operations had 99.96 % reliability with 1,100.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 0.43 hours of program outages. There were two commercial power outages encountered this month with no program loss.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The Station's overall availability was 99.39 %. The Station encountered a total of 11.2 hours of program outages. Nearly half of these outages were due to the loss of commercial power, primarily due to the loss of the 13.8 KV feeder on two occasions, and other feeder and circuit breaker problems. Loss of the Network Control Center's program feed from Washington accounted for 3.82 hours of the outages.

The Station encountered a 33 minute loss of the MPLS-2 signal affecting the data link, and audio and video programs between Washington and Tinang. The cause was undetermined.

Station employees (b) (6) & (b) (6) made the weekly food distribution to selected recipients in the five surrounding barangays as part of the Station's civic action program.

Installation of satellite receiving equipment at affiliate station DWXT in Tarlac City was completed.

Over a three day period, 134 students from Saint Louis University, Baguio City visited the Station for their educational tour.

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

STTS operations suffered multiple challenges this month, resulting in the poorest availability numbers in many years. Program broadcast availability for January fell to 99.77%. The Transmitter Plant had a total of 2,670 program broadcast hours scheduled with 6.07 hours of program outages. These outages were transmitter and antenna related.

Station employees (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed Sao Tome enroute to IBB Botswana. South African immigration officials intercepted them upon arrival because they did not have a South African transit visa. They were returned to Libreville, Gabon on the next available flight minus all their baggage, and from there, they returned to Sao Tome. At the end of month, their bags had not yet been located.

Access to State Department's Global OpenNet (GO) and RFMS/M was restored after two full months without access to these financial systems. All financials were up to date at the end of month.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany arrived to install the new Cisco Call Manager telephone system. The project went smoothly and the transition from the old ROLM PBX telephone system was transparent. Station employees (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) were also instrumental in this success.

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

The month of January was an exciting month for all Sri Lankans as the much awaited Presidential Election was held on January 8th, resulting in election of a new President. Four Transmitter Plant technicians stayed at the C&I Beach Hotel while on standby to take over shift duties in the event a curfew was imposed and/or transport was hindered after the elections.

A team from Embassy Colombo's Human Resources (HR) Office comprising of HR Officer (b) (6), and HR Specialists (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Station to discuss several HR concerns.

Through an M&R contract, the Station successfully completed frame cable replacement and refurbishment work on antenna 291H and tested it with regular power with modulations. No fault was found.

Interviews were conducted to fill the vacant Transmitter Plant Maintenance Supervisor position. The Station's Lead Radio Technician, (b) (6), was selected to fill the position, effective January 25th.

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

The start of a major project at Udorn to replace all of the original air handlers and controllers has been reset again. The vendor's Site Project Manager was denied a security clearance and access to the Station for a very good, though un-disclosed, reason. In addition, M&R funding was received this month, and a package was sent to General Services Officer at the Embassy to obligate funds for an expansion of this project to include the replacement of variable air volume (VAV) pneumatic controls with direct by wire sensors and controls.

Nine members from the offices of the Ban Dung and Nong Harn Districts of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) toured the Station. They expressed interest in learning about recent efforts to reduce power consumption.

The new Regional Security Officer (RSO), (b) (6) accompanied by RSOI Chief, (b) (6) traveled to Udorn. The Station Manager and Executive Officer accompanied them to the Provincial Police Headquarters to meet the new Provincial Police Commander, (b) (6). The RSO also traveled to Khon Kaen to meet the Regional Chief of Police. In addition, he toured the station at Ban Dung (Udorn) and met the staff before returning to Embassy

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404, which is approximately \$150 K higher than reported last month. Of this amount, all but about \$136 K has already been allotted to the stations or committed or obligated here at Headquarters. This leaves a very small residual to apply to the backlog of urgent projects or for emergency repairs.

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, 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. From that point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications on numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22, 2014. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues list and updating the submittal logs; however, progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority from BBG, which we are still waiting on to be processed. The contract for the energized work was awarded on January 22, 2015, but our contractor can't proceed without the Delegation. Other items delaying this work include: reinstallation of 2nd floor conduit per approved shop drawings; retesting of feeders on the second floor, since there is a chance that the feeders could be damaged after re-installation; and submission of complete testing reports and hardcopies for review and approval. On site, GSA indicated that ARRIBA has completed the necessary work to be ready for a ceiling and underfloor inspection; we are coordinating with the A&E to perform this inspection within the next couple of weeks.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

Site A was formally reported to GSA as being excess to the Agency's needs in early 2012, and for all intents and purposes GSA has now completed the disposal of the site. On February 4, 2015, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Beaufort County signed an "*Acceptance of Constructive Possession for Federal Surplus Property*" acknowledging to the National Park Service that the County is assuming custody and accountability for Site A. GSA will provide the Agency with an executed deed when it is available. At this point in time, the responsibility for Site A has passed from the Agency to Beaufort County.

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

The newly elected Mayor for Selebi Phikwe, (b) (6) and his Deputy, (b) (6) paid a courtesy call to the Station. The Mayor discussed the ailing economy of Selebi-Phikwe and how the town must diversify the business opportunities it currently has. Currently, the town depends on a mine which is running low on minerals.

The Station hosted the Botswana Medical Aid Company, which provided health/wellness screenings to the Station's Foreign Service National (FSN) staff.

The Station conducted training on the State Department's COAST cashier program, which is currently being implemented. This program replaces the WinACS cashier program. There is a problem, in that the Station's computers are 32bit Windows 7 and the software for the COAST's public-key infrastructure (PKI) cards is written for 64 bit machines.

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

The area experienced several days of ice, snow and below normal temperatures. The Station only experienced minimal disruptions to its operations; however, the utility power supplier imposed a temporary increase to its power costs due to extremely cold temperatures. To offset the increase in power costs, the Station operated on auxiliary power at various times.

The GB-4 transmitter project to replace the electro-mechanical tuning position indicators with a computerized digital readout system is complete. Frequency band preset data was loaded into the master computer and the transmitter was returned to service.

It was with great sadness that the Station said good bye to its contract electronics technician, (b) (6), who left for other career opportunities. Her technical skills and friendship will be missed

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

Richard Cai, T/EOS/N in Washington visited the Station to finalize plans to inspect the antennas at Lampertheim, and clean and repaint the medium wave antenna towers in Djibouti. The work at Lampertheim will be accomplished by riggers from IBB Sao Tome and IBB Philippines. The Station acknowledged that using Network riggers is an excellent way to conserve M&R dollars.

The Caterpillar C-18 generator at Khost, Afghanistan was moved to the Caterpillar maintenance workshop in Kabul. This generator will be overhauled by the dealer, and then returned to the site. A new generator from Pol E Charkhi, Afghanistan was installed at Khost to replace the C-18 while it is being overhauled. This work was done without interruption to the broadcast.

Three members of the IBB Germany staff visited Djibouti and worked with the local staff on several issues. Some problems with our MW transmitter were fixed and the function of the antenna obstruction light system was tested. The Radio Television Djibouti (RTD) staff was advised to replace the defective bulbs and neon stripes identified during the testing. The last two days was spent taking radiation hazard (RadHaz) measurements.

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

There were an abnormal amount (11) of mains power induced off/ons during the month on different days. The worst was on the evening of February 11th when a technical breakdown at the Ministry of Electricity & Water's (MEW) Al-Subiya Power Station triggered a massive electricity blackout that affected almost 50% of the entire country. IBB Kuwait was not in the blacked-out zone, which included a great deal of Kuwait City, but transmitter KWT-A was affected with several automatic drops to low power due to voltage fluctuations during the outage period.

Facilities Supervisor/Rigger, (b) (6) departed on TDY to IBB Sri Lanka to provide rigger training and inspect the Station's antenna systems. He will return to post in March.

IBB Kuwait provided technical support to broadcasting facilities in Accra, Ghana and Amman, Jordan.

There was one somewhat unusual incident that deserves a mention. This month is the desert camping season, a time of year when Kuwaitis by the thousands erect tent camps out in the desert. Vendors also provide entertainment venues for children, including things like pony rides, ATV rentals, and inflatable slides. On the afternoon of February 20th, there was a strong sandstorm that plowed through Kuwait, kicking up strong winds that closed down shipping and air traffic. It also apparently ripped away one of those inflatable slides that was set up in an area north of the Station. On the afternoon of the 24th, four men showed up at the Station's front gate saying they were looking for their lost "balloon" that may have landed on the Station's property. The word "balloon" initially raised security concerns, as the local Kuwait National Guard Commander thought it may have been a surveillance device with a camera. But when the men were interrogated further, it turned out they were talking about an inflatable bouncy house. A search was made and it was found about 300 meters inside the Station's north quadrant, totally deflated with the tie-down stakes still attached. The men were permitted to bring in their truck, roll it up, load it up, and go on their way rejoicing.

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

Tinian operations had 99.92 % reliability during this month with 1,584.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts resulting in 1.27 hours of program outage. There were no commercial power outage encountered. The outages were primarily transmitter related.

Saipan operations had 99.98 % reliability during this month with 994.00 hours of scheduled broadcast with 0.22 hours of program outage. Six commercial power outages were encountered, which caused the 0.22 hours of program outage.

IBB Philippines Station Manager, (b) (6), visited the CNMI to oversee Saipan and Tinian operations while the Station's Resident Engineer, (b) (6), was away from post. As part of this visit, he and Derek (after his return) traveled to Guam to meet with construction contracting personnel at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas to discuss possible construction procurement support. The Department of Defense has significant activities throughout this region, and the NAVFAC procurement specialists possess a wealth of information regarding available contractors and effective procurement practices.

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

(b) (6)

During the month, 216 students, and 10 faculty members from four universities visited the Station and were given tours.

Mr. (b) (6) from Diplomatic Security visited the Station to conduct safe haven medical care training.

The Station's overall availability for the month of February was 99.75%. There were 1,653.2 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 4.08 hours of program outages. The majority of these outages (3.35 hours) were not related to Station operations, but were due to Philippines Broadcasting Services (PBS) program feed problems on five different days.

A recent example of the successful collaboration between IBB Stations was the Station's recently completed assembly of 24 solid state modulator (SSM) power switch modules. The printed circuit boards that house these modules were produced in Bangkok, with assistance from the Thailand Transmitting Station. The Philippines staff then bulk procured the actual components, and fabricated each module using Station technicians. This action saved the U.S. Government thousands of dollars per unit. The Station has been building their own SSM modules for the past four years.

The transmitting station in Djibouti complained of internet connectivity problem. The problem was corrected after configuring additional routes on the multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) router from Djibouti to Washington.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Philippines, completed the terrestrial migration project at Sri Lanka. They successfully installed and configured a new internet protocol security (IPSec) router, allowing Sri Lanka's data circuit to be taken off of the Indian Ocean Relay (IOR) satellite. Faster connectivity is now being realized with the terrestrial feed providing a direct tunnel to Washington. Also, a tunnel to the

Philippines was configured, enabling a VoIP circuit connection to IBB stations in the Asia Pacific region. In addition, this tunnel is serving as backup for data and internet in case of failure of the direct tunnel to Washington.

The Annual High Frequency Broadcast Conference (HFBC) was held on February 27th, hosted by IBB. A total of 50 employees from National Telecommunications Commission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Radio Veritas Asia, Philippine Broadcasting Company, and IBB attended the event.

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

IBB Germany employees (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed after installing the Cisco Call Manager. HQ Washington added the orderwire to the Cisco Unified Communications Manager (CUCM).

The Station—working with CST (Sao Tome Telecom), Portugal Telecom, Sprint and BBG Global Networks successfully—activated the Sao Tome-Portugal-London-Washington DC 10Mb MPLS circuit.

The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) supervisor conducted hands-on forklift safety and operator training to ten staff members who regularly operate the forklift.

The Safety Supervisor conducted a successful fire drill with excellent egress time.

Deputy Chief of Mission (b) (6) for the American Embassy Gabon and new Desk Officer, (b) (6), visited the Station.

The HVAC section working together with the Motor Pool section repaired minor damage on the Boston Whaler to include removing and replacing a broken propeller, fuel filters, spark plugs and corroded wiring.

The Facilities section initiated termite control work on residence #02 by removing and replacing infested wooden beams and arranging for a vendor to assess the magnitude of the infestation and propose a solution.

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

Sameh El Halaby and Sinisa Kurtic, T/I in Washington conducted a site survey and hardware upgrade. The upgrade process included installation and configuration of new servers, laptops, and workstations.

Larry Chiu and (b) (6), IBB Philippines, visited the Station and provided support for the firewall installation and IT hardware refresh. Larry also finished up work on replacing the end-of-site firewall cluster and provided support on the Transmitter Automation project.

IBB Kuwait Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6), visited the Station and conducted Climber Certification Training for Sri Lanka's newest rigging team.

The Station bid farewell to Maintenance Supervisor – Facilities, (b) (6) who retired after 9 years of service with IBB. He was formerly attached to SLBC (Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation) where most of our Radio Technicians started their career.

The Assistant Facilities Plant Supervisor, (b) (6), visited the St. Peter's Junior School in Naththandiya to discuss with the school's Principal the assistance required from the Station to clean the school grounds in readiness for the school's upcoming sports meet. Subsequently, the Station's B&G workers using the Station's equipment attended to the clearing project.

The antenna 275H refurbishment was completed with frame cables and hardware replaced with new ones.

The Station Manager and Assistant Transmitter Plant Supervisor, (b) (6), visited the SLBC on Feb 27th to discuss the possibility of leasing air time via the Trincomalee Transmitting Station.

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

The Transmitter Plant Supervisor and the Computer Management Specialist attended Cisco Networking training in Bangkok.

The State Department's Guard Force contractor was on site to provide training to the Station guards.

Steve Hermann, a VOA Correspondent, visited Udorn and toured the transmitting site.

Prospective bidders for the Station's new B&G contracts visited the Station at Udorn in preparation for submitting proposals for contracts to provide janitorial, gardening and facilities maintenance services. The existing B&G contract ends in April.

The Facilities Plant Supervisor traveled to Rasom (MW site) to work with the Rasom Facilities Maintenance Supervisor to accumulate drawings and the final data required to complete a statement of work, and assemble a solicitation package to replace the 40 year old HVAC ducting at the Rasom plant. The completed package has been forwarded to the General Services Office at the embassy.

The Station file server failed and was still not restored to service by the end of the month despite great support from the T/I Enterprise Platform Division in Washington and the best efforts of the Station's Computer Management Specialist.

Representatives from the Bangkok Hospital of Udorn met with the senior staff at the Station to discuss the hospital's association with BUPA, the health insurance carrier for all the Mission to include the Station's locally employed staff (LES) employees.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404, which is approximately \$150 K higher than reported last month. Of this amount, all but about \$136 K has already been allotted to the stations or committed or obligated here at Headquarters. This leaves a very small residual to apply to the backlog of urgent projects or for emergency repairs. Because of serious corrosion problems on the curtain antennas in Sri Lanka, we are planning to send a structural consultant to the Station to provide a professional, third-party assessment of the corrosion, as well as recommendations for remedial action.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. However, the contract for the energized work can't proceed without the re- installation of 2nd floor conduit as approved and noted. Also, the feeders need to be re-tested since there is a chance that the feeders could be damaged after re-installation. After this work is completed, we expect the re-submission of the testing results for review and approval before moving forward with the energized work. On site, Hanson performed a ceiling and underfloor inspection. Minor items were found during the inspection, which ARRIBA will complete before closing the ceiling and the floor. A coordination meeting will be scheduled within the next couple of weeks for ARRIBA to turn over the breakers and associated components required to complete the energized work.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

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

The technical staff was heavily involved in designing and installing a semi-automatic refill system for the newly installed water pipeline. A submersible pump located at the medium wave site is now being remotely switched on and off from the shortwave site via the Station's fiber network.

Embassy physician, **(b) (6)** paid a visit to the Station to certify first aid kits and other items that would be used in a medical emergency.

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

The Station transmitted 1,620.25 hours of total programming with a total of 4.37 hours of outage. The Station's overall transmission availability was 99.73%. The lost time was primarily due to loss of the Radio Vatican feed from the source, and transmitter related issues.

Several members of the Carteret County amateur radio club toured the site.

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

The big news for the month was the completion of the JF50 forms for the Station staff. Converting to the new Merit Based Compensation Plan took a tremendous effort by all. The final documents resulted from a lot of hard work, and very constructive dialogue about the goals of the Station and staff and how best to achieve them. Kudos to the Germany staff for getting this very important work completed on time.

Negotiations continue with the Republic of Djibouti on renewing the licensing agreement. Talks are progressing and a final agreement is anticipated in May.

IBB Germany is preparing a contract proposal for the cleaning and repainting of the three medium wave towers at the PK-12 site in Djibouti. It is expected that the work will begin in September. The Station thanks Richard Cai, T/EOS/N in Washington, for providing the statement of work.

The signal distribution system at the Station received a significant upgrade. The Station now has in operation redundant MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) paths to Washington.

At the end of the month, IBB Germany satellite technician **(b) (6)** traveled to the Cyprus station to perform maintenance on the IBB 2.4m MERN DAMA (Demand Assigned Multiple

Access) system and overhaul the 3.4m Prodelin NSS-12 TVRO (television receive only) system. The maintenance is scheduled to be completed in April.

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

Station technicians pulled new Cat-6 LAN (local area network) cabling to replace all of our Cat-5 LAN cabling. The LAN equipment room was also reconfigured in the process, providing a better physical layout for network routers and switches.

HQ Washington remotely configured the new VAS (value-added service) Gateway Cisco 3900 router as the new primary tunnel path between Washington and Kuwait. The old IPSec (internet protocol security) tunnel (Cisco 2821) was retained as a secondary path.

Station LAN Manager, (b) (6), coordinated with (b) (6), IBB Germany, to configure the ICT (integrated configuration tool) of the Cisco Call Manager for VoIP orderwire communications between Germany, Sao Tome and the Philippines Transmitting Stations.

Station technicians provided technical support to VOA FM subsidiary transmitter sites in Jenin, Palestine, Amman, Jordan and N'Djamena, Chad.

The Station held a sealed-bid yard sale of excess property. Proceeds from the sale amounted to \$9,302.66.

An Embassy security guard lost control of his vehicle and ran off the main access road between the front gate and the Station compound, taking out a few trees and causing severe damage to the front of the vehicle. Fortunately, the driver was uninjured.

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

Tropical Storm Bavi passed south of the Marianas on 15 March and impacted operations at both sites. The storm damaged many of Tinian's low band antennas; repairs continued throughout the remainder of the month, with final repairs completed on 31 March. Affected antennas were 270L, 305L, 295H, 295L, and 333L.

Tinian aired 70 hours of Saipan's daytime broadcast hours throughout the month in support of some much needed antenna maintenance.

Tinian encountered two commercial power outages that caused 5.33 hours of program outage, with one outage accounting for 5.29 hours. This outage was caused by a rodent finding its way into the 11KV switchgear and subsequently shorting some phase bus bars together. Repairs were frustrated by multiple contactor trips and a control failure to the Station's Load Tap Changer. It was determined that a potential transformer in the Load Tap Changer had failed.

Saipan's antenna 270M underwent a thorough rework and replacement of several radiator and reflector wires. Additionally, guy wax coating was applied and counterweight support timbers were replaced.

(b) (6), Resident Engineer, met with new Tinian Mayor, (b) (6). The meeting was held at the Mayor's office. No agenda was discussed, as the meeting was intended to be a first step in opening the lines of communications between the Island's new administration and IBB.

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

The Station participated in Recognition Days for the five barangay day care centers supported by IBB grants. The Station also completed the weekly food distribution, which is a part of its civic action program.

Supervisory Admin Management Specialist, (b) (6), attended Appropriations Law training at the Regional Training Center in Bangkok, and then traveled to Udorn where he met with colleagues at the Thailand Transmitting Station. There he discussed with the Thailand staff many topics including enactment of various contracting policies, procurement practices, and cashier operations. Of note was a discussion regarding various problems the two stations faced adopting State's new COAST cashiering system. This discussion eventually led to a resolution of the IBB Philippines' replenishment problem, and now the COAST system at the Philippines appears to be 100% up and running. Many thanks go out to the Thailand staff for hosting such a positive exchange of ideas between the admin staffs.

During the month, 224 students from various universities accompanied by faculty and tour coordinators visited the Station as part of their educational tours.

The Station hosted four bidders for the new canteen operating contract. After interviewing each and discussing their respective proposals, the Station selected Sison's Fastfood of Tarlac. It is anticipated that the new canteen services will start in April.

The Cisco intercluster trunks to Sao Tome and Germany were configured on the Philippines, Marianas, Thailand and Sri Lanka Call Managers, which have established orderwire links between the Stations. The Station staff worked with the IBB Germany staff in resolving a configuration issue with the Germany Call Manager.

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

Station hosted visits by the Management Officer, Assistant Regional Security Officer and Defense Attaché from the American Embassy, Libreville, Gabon. They were here to lay the groundwork for the first visit by the new American Ambassador (b) (6), who is expected to present her credentials in April.

The Security and Buildings & Grounds contracts were extended for another three month period on the eve of their expiration dates.

Lengthy audit interviews of Station purchase card holders and the approving official were conducted by various Regis CPA staff members during the month.

All Station users of the Regional Financial Management System (RFMS/M) attended online training conducted by the Charleston Financial Service Center in preparation for the May 2015 rollout of the updated version, RFMS 7.0.5.

Accidental death insurance was added to the Local Compensation Plan in accordance with 14 STATE 65194 and 03 FAM 3653.

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

(b) (6), T/EOS/N, arrived from Washington to review ongoing Maintenance & Repair (M&R) projects.

Due to safety concerns with the severely corroded guy wires of the antenna towers, the Station Manager issued a directive barring all Station staff from visiting the West, North and East Arrays of the antenna field effective March 6th, unless express permission has been granted by him.

Due to degraded guy wires noticed on the West Array antennas, the Station's antenna crew lowered antennas 255H, 255L, and 275H in order to reduce load on the towers. The team is planning to lower the remaining West Array antennas (275L, 291H, and 291L) prior to a structural survey.

Station conducted a bid sale on miscellaneous scrap material stored at the dump yard. Several sealed bids were received and the winning bid was submitted by Asian Aqua Services Private Ltd for \$15,178.06.

During the month, personnel from the Facilities Section carried out both preventive and corrective maintenance of major equipment components of the Station, such as, generators, air-conditioning systems, transmitter water chillers and air compressor system. This is the start of a Station initiative to establish an all-encompassing, master Facilities preventive maintenance program for the station.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) of Diplomatic Security in Washington accompanied by (b) (6) from the Bangkok Regional Security Office (RSO) visited the Station to evaluate the local guard force in preparation for a solicitation for a new guard workforce contract.

The Station hosted a group of 26 children from the Ban Non Saard School at Udorn who toured the plant. Later in the month, the staff at the Rasom MW site hosted a group of 60 students and five teachers from the Rajabhat Science and Technical College at Nakon Prathomand, while the staff at Udorn was hosting a tour of the plant for 54 students from the Ban Ngew Me Chai School.

The acting Facilities Plant Supervisor traveled to Rasom to meet with four potential bidders who are responding to a Request for Quote (RFQ) to replace the aging air conditioning ducting at the MW site. This is M&R project 1528 that will replace the 40 year old air ducting throughout the plant.

The new Assistant RSO in charge of servicing the Thailand Transmitting Station, (b) (6), travelled to Udorn to work on an update to the Station's physical security inspection and to meet the staff. He was accompanied by two representatives from RSOI who conducted security back ground updates required to renew clearances for select Station LES (locally employed staff) employees.

Computer Management Specialist (b) (6), Transmitter Plant Supervisor (b) (6) and Radio Technician (b) (6) attended IT Disaster Recovery Planning training in Bangkok.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404, which is approximately \$150 K higher than reported last month. Of this amount, all but about \$136 K has already been allotted to the stations or committed or obligated here at

Headquarters. This leaves a very small residual to apply to the backlog of urgent projects or for emergency repairs. Because of serious corrosion problems on the curtain antennas in Sri Lanka, we are planning to send a structural consultant to the Station to provide a professional, third-party assessment of the corrosion, as well as recommendations for remedial action; the A/E task order for this assessment is under negotiation, and should be issued soon.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system. However, the submittal was not approved. A second submission was received and also sent back to the contractor as "revise and resubmit". Some of the issues with the submittal included: not all the feeders were tested, new panels have not been labeled and missing grounding continuity information. In the meantime, our contractor has been performing prep-work for the power cutover. On site, ARRIBA continues slowly addressing deficiencies. GSA has also received several outstanding submittals, which they will review and forward to us. We are still waiting for a revised project schedule, which was due to GSA on April 21st. The project schedule is critical to start planning all the activities required for the 35 day migration into the new console area.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

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

Station availability was 99.89 % for the month. Total program hours were 1,347 with 1.42 hours of program outages. The outages were power and transmitter related.

Botswana is inundated with load shedding exercises and the Station is not immune to power outages. Management has approached the Botswana Power Company, asking them to minimize the power interruptions to the Station. However, all the Station standby generators are in hot standby in the event that the Station loses commercial power.

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

Station availability for the month was 99.94%. Total program hours were 1,614.50 hours, with 1.22 hours of program outages. The outages were transmitter and program feed related.

Several small group tours of the facility were given during the month.

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

IBB Germany welcomed RFE/RL staff members (b) (6) and (b) (6), who visited Lampertheim to upgrade the Prague 13°E satellite system broadcast backup.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany, traveled IBB Marianas to replace the old TCI antenna controllers. The project was successfully completed and Tinian is on the air with the new antenna controller system.

(b) (6), IBB Germany, returned from Cyprus, where he replaced the site's old 2.4m MERN data communication system that had deteriorated due to damage caused by salt water and UV light, and overhauled the 3.4m TVRO (TV receive only) system.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany, traveled to the PK-12 site in Djibouti, where they installed a new 3.4m Prodeline satellite dish for reception of the NSS12 satellite signal.

Due to a Taliban attack in the Mazar E Sharif, Afghanistan area, the Agency's FM transmitter was switched off for security reasons. Broadcasting resumed two hours later.

Three IBB Germany engineers traveled to Orzu, Tajikistan, where they automated the operation of the Continental SW transmitter, and installed a new satellite dish for receiving of the NSS12 satellite signal.

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

The Station welcomed Mr. (b) (6), its new Transmitter Technician, who arrived at post from his native Greece. For the first time in several months, the Station is once again at full staffing level.

All Station personnel attended a mandatory seminar on workplace professionalism that was conducted at the U.S. Embassy. The locally employed staff (LES) also attended a Town Hall meeting with the Ambassador.

Station LAN Administrator, (b) (6) traveled to Dubai to attend a one-week boot-camp training course on the Cisco MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) system. She also worked with Sameh El Halaby, T/I in Washington to repair a problem on the KUWW-HPV02 network server.

Station personnel provided technical support for VOA FM 24/7 transmitting sites in Juba, Sudan, Bujumbura, Burundi, Amman, Jordan and Kigali, Rwanda.

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

The automation systems at the sites have been undergoing a thorough review. (b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany, have refreshed the antenna base equipment controlling Tinian's Phase Three Antennas 305L and 270L. Larry Chiu and (b) (6), IBB Philippines and Station personnel supported this effort with equipment maintenance, rewiring and installation. The visiting personnel also completed rework activities at the Saipan site where networking equipment needed replacement and reconfiguration.

Tinian availability was 99.84 % for the month. Total program hours were 1,543.50 with 2.45 hours of program outages. The outages were primarily antenna and transmitter related.

Saipan availability was 99.98% for the month. Total program hours were 765 with 0.13 hours of program outages, which were caused by three commercial power outages.

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

The Station hosted a representational dinner for provincial military and police officials, which was held at La Maja Rica Hotel in Tarlac City.

Supervisory Radio Technician, (b) (6), travelled to IBB Marianas to support the completion of the TCI antenna project.

Supervisory Radio Technician, (b) (6), and Electronics Technician, (b) (6), traveled to Davao City, Philippines to provide support to VOA affiliates.

Visitors to the Station included 45 students, 2 faculty members and 1 tour guide from the University of San Carlos, Cebu City for their educational tour.

The problem with the Tinang Server not being able to backup using the HP StoreOnce has been resolved. Scheduled full backups are now running on a weekly basis and incremental backups on a daily basis. In addition, Synology NAS (network attached storage) equipment has been installed in the Station's TDY

quarters and serves as an alternate onsite backup storage. Configuration is underway in coordination with Sameh El-Halaby, T/I in Washington.

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

On April 3rd, the Station's 152.75.238 network lost connectivity when the MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) circuit between Sao Tome and London went down. Many thanks to (b) (6), T/CN in Washington for providing a temporary fix until the circuit was restored on April 9th.

U.S. Ambassador (b) (6) (U.S. Embassy Gabon) was hosted by the Station staff at an informal gathering in the transmitter hall. She was favorably impressed by the Station's operation and friendly team who worked several days to prepare the building and grounds for her first visit to Sao Tome.

Week-long training on State's COAST cashiering system was conducted and the system was successfully installed and is now operational. In addition, supplementary training was conducted on the voucher examiner and B&F (budget and finance) modules.

On April 24th in the afternoon, a short but violent storm passed over the site, taking out a tree next to the power plant and several tree limbs elsewhere on site. Antenna #2's screen suffered moderate damage and was being temporarily repaired at end of month.

Station staff (b) (6) and (b) (6) responded to a call to help a stranded fisherman caught in turbulent waters well offshore. They launched the Station's Zodiac boat in heavy seas and brought the stranded fisherman and his dugout to shore. This type of community service is priceless. Congratulations to these courageous men. Their deeds reflect well on IBB Sao Tome.

Station riggers (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed Sao Tome for IBB Germany to assist with antenna inspections there.

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

To improve the Station's strategic sustainability posture by reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint, and reduce buildings and grounds (B&G) costs, the Station Manager and Facilities Plant Supervisor initiated a program to permit goats reared by a nearby farmer to graze on the Station's field. The project will help maintain the grass and the overgrown shrub area, which would otherwise require the employment of special ground staff and machinery to clear and cut.

(b) (6), the Agricultural Officer for the Mahawewa/Iranawilla area and (b) (6), the Assistant Agricultural Officer visited the Station to examine the site's mango trees that have been infected by disease. After close observation, they advised the Station Manager to prune the branches and spray the trees with an approved insecticide once the fruit season is over.

The Station's Financial Assistant, (b) (6) travelled to Bangkok to attend Accounting 1 training at State's Comptroller and Global Financial Services (CGFS). In addition, she visited IBB Thailand for consultations with the Station's staff.

The Station conducted a bid sale on excess vehicle spares. Most of the vehicles for which these spares were ordered for are no longer in the Station's inventory. Several sealed bids were received and the winning bid was submitted by Siriman Motor Works of Dalupotha, Kochchikade for \$1,254.69.

An interview for an Antenna Technician position was conducted and (b) (6) was selected for employment. Embassy Colombo's Human Resources (HR) confirmed that the clearance process is underway for his recruitment.

Due to degraded guy wires noticed on West Antenna Array, the Station antenna crew lowered all the West Array's antennas prior to a scheduled structural survey.

Painting of antenna tower M was 100% completed by the contractor and painting on tower H was commenced.

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

In preparation for generating an information technology disaster recovery plan (ITDRP) that is required by TSI-412, the Transmitter Plant Supervisor, Computer Management Specialist and a Senior Radio Technician traveled to Bangkok to attend ITDRP training provided by a commercial vendor.

Routine scheduled maintenance was performed on the antenna array at Rasom, the Station's medium wave site. The Antenna Supervisory Technician and an Antenna Equipment Technician traveled from Udorn to accomplish this maintenance.

The Station Manager, serving as the contracting officer's representative (COR) for the air handling unit (AHU) replacement project, M&R 1340, met with the prime contractor, York/Johnson Controls of Khon Kaen and their sub-contractor to discuss the statement of work (SOW). The representatives involved in the project today are not the same people who were involved in the planning and formulation of the SOW. Everyone now understands the requirements and work is proceeding smoothly. The first of twelve AHU's was restored to service in manual mode to the relief of the Facilities staff. Temperatures during the month have been drifting up to 105°F.

The Transmitter Maintenance Supervisor, and two Radio Technicians traveled to Bangkok to attend Cisco Unified Call Manager training.

The Station's procurement agents, the Admin unit and the Unit Supervisors vigorously processed a list of prioritized purchase orders before the end of April because the Embassy's Financial Management Center scheduled a two week period to take the Embassy's Momentum system offline for a planned upgrade. No obligations can be accommodated until after mid-May while the system upgrade is in progress.

Three dud TH-558 transmitting tubes were processed for return to the U.S. for possible rebuilding by CPI/ Econco. This is the first attempt by the Station to obtain a rebuilt TH-558 and is also the first time that dud tubes have been returned for use as prospective rebuild candidates.

The Financial Assistant from IBB Sri Lanka liaised with the Station's administrative staff for a few days following the completion of her training in Bangkok.

The Station's Administrative Management Specialist traveled to Washington, DC to attend contracting training at Management Concepts. She will also make office calls at HQ Washington. The timing is good given that the Embassy Momentum system is off line for upgrade during her training.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404, which is approximately \$150 K higher than reported last month. Of this amount, all but about \$136 K has already been allotted to the stations or committed or obligated here at Headquarters. This leaves a very small residual to apply to the backlog of urgent projects or for emergency repairs. Because of serious corrosion problems on the curtain antennas in Sri Lanka, we are sending a structural consultant to the Station to provide a professional, third-party assessment of the corrosion, as well as recommendations for remedial action; the A/E task order for this assessment has been issued and the site visit is being scheduled.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. During the submittal process, our contractor continued performing prep-work for the power cutover. Finally, the actual power cutover was scheduled for May 27, 2015. The cutover occurred as planned without any glitches. On site, work continues to be slow. No trades were on site for most of this month. ARRIBA completed the installation of ceiling tiles but there are some issues with cuts and patching. ARRIBA continues working on completing outstanding submittals/ resubmittals and slowly addressing deficiencies. ARRIBA submitted an updated project schedule that was again unacceptable. ARRIBA promised to provide the updated project schedule next week. The project schedule is critical to start planning all the activities required for the 35 day migration into the new console area.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

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

Station hosted personnel from the Botswana Medical Aid Company who conducted a quarterly health/wellness session for the Foreign Service Nationals (FSN). The topic of discussion for this wellness session was cryptococcus meningitis.

Station technicians were busy this month troubleshooting a spurious harmonic that was reported to the Network Control Center (NCC) in Washington by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). After many hours of testing, it was determined that the AGC (Automatic Gain Control) circuit card in transmitter BOT-3 was defective. The Station has not received any further complaints since replacing the circuit card.

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

The Station's availability for the month was 99.86, with almost all of the transmission outages (2.3 hours) being transmitter related.

Contractors began making the final electrical connections to transmitter GB-8's HV (high voltage) transformer. In addition, the Station began replacing the original rotary dial-up monitoring system with a new audio routing switcher.

Several small group tours of the facility were given during the month.

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

Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) from Tajikistan Teleradiocom visited IBB Germany for a meeting and consultations (23 – 30 May).

Mr. (b) (6), IBB liaison engineer in Afghanistan, also visited the Station for a meeting and consultations with IBB management (24 – 29 May).

An IBB rigging team consisting of Messrs. (b) (6) (IBB Sao Tome), (b) (6) (IBB Sao Tome), (b) (6) (IBB Philippines), (b) (6) (IBB Philippines) and (b) (6) (IBB Kuwait) visited the Station to conduct an inspection of the Lampertheim shortwave (SW) antennas. Overall, the team found that the antennas at Lampertheim were in very good condition considering the age of the tower and antennas.

Lampertheim provided extensive backup on the Eutelsat 13° (Hotbird) satellite for RFE/RL Prague due to adverse weather conditions and the upgrade of the Prague Hotbird uplink system.

At Khost, Afghanistan, a local contractor finished the construction of the concrete pad for the third C-18 generator. Also, a local contractor from Kabul repaired the BARD air conditioning units, which are back in service and working without any problems. In addition, the troubleshooting and repair of the medium wave (MW) Harris transmitter was finished with the help of a technician from Pol E Charkhi. The transmitter has resumed operating with full power.

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

A total of 1.2 hours of programming was lost on all transmitters when severe local weather conditions disrupted the AOR satellite downlink feeds. A cloudburst dropped extremely heavy rains on the desert area north of Kuwait City, flooding underpasses and roadways and producing mudflows that overflowed some roads, requiring heavy machinery to clear away the debris. The storm system was accompanied by very high winds that broke several highway signs.

Daytime temperatures surged upwards this month, precipitating increased electricity demand in the country and brief power disruptions at the Station.

Station Facilities Supervisor and Lead Rigger, (b) (6) departed post to lead an antenna inspection team at IBB Germany. Riggers from both IBB Sao Tome and IBB Philippines also participated in the inspection.

The Station's staff provided technical support for VOA FM 24/7 transmitter sites in Juba, Sudan, Accra, Ghana and Bujumbura, Burundi.

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

Typhoon Dolphin: The Mariana Islands were visited by another typhoon on 15 May. It passed between the Islands of Rota and Guam. Typhoon Dolphin initially was heading towards Tinian but later swung towards the south. Typhoon Dolphin, which eventually categorized as a Super Typhoon shortly after passing through the Mariana Islands, caused extensive damage on the southern islands and created extra work for Station personnel.

- At Tinian:

--- During the course of Typhoon Dolphin, the Tinian site informed NCC in Washington that it would shut down all its broadcasting starting at 1209 UTC, 15 May to avoid further damage to the antenna systems and to secure personnel assessing the damages. This broadcast shutdown resulted in a total of 34.98 hours of program outage.

--- Out of 13 antennas, only six antennas (267H, 267L and 295M, which were undamaged and 270L, 305L & 313L, which had minor damage) were usable once the storm passed. Damages to the remaining seven antennas (280H, 280L, 295H, 295L, 333L, 333H and 313H) rendered them unusable.

--- At 0100 UTC, 16 May, 41.25 broadcasting hours were restored, and by 19 May, after the repair of three of the severely damaged antennas (313H, 295H and 333H), Tinian had regained enough assets to air its 51.25 hours of scheduled broadcasts.

- At Saipan: The site's antennas fared the storm well and Saipan was able to air its broadcast schedule throughout the typhoon. Saipan only had a few minutes of outages during Typhoon Dolphin.

Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6), URS Corporation, were at the Station to conduct a facilities condition survey. Saipan was surveyed 11-12 May, and Tinian was surveyed 13-14 May. Both men had to return to Saipan on 14 May and adjust their departure schedules due to the approach of Typhoon Dolphin.

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

Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6), Antenna Equipment Technicians, traveled to IBB Germany to join counterparts from IBB Kuwait and IBB Sao Tome. Together, they completed an antenna system inspection.

Station Manager (b) (6) visited IBB Marianas from 28 April – 15 May. While there, he oversaw management of the facility, participated in Tinian and Saipan town hall meetings related to the proposed expansion of U.S. military live fire ranges, and worked with the Admin staff to resolve Momentum (financial system) and purchase card issues.

In concert with its annual Health Fair, the Station hosted a blood drive. Over 20 IBB, contract staff, and Local Guard Force employees donated blood to the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center Blood Bank. The next day, the embassy-conducted health fair went off without a hitch. During this event, IBB and contract staff members were able to avail themselves of various services to include free cholesterol and diabetic screenings, eye check-ups, and TB and Hepatitis testing.

A departure from our standard Barangay representational luncheon, the staff decided to mix things up this year and host a barangay activities day. In lieu of speeches, members from the five barangays joined together at the Station to participate in various sporting events, outdoor games, and a social dinner. Feedback following the lively social event was very positive, and seemed to do much more toward developing and reinforcing a strong and cordial relationship between themselves and with the Station.

The Station closed out the month with its annual "Take Your Family to Work Day." Not simply for the kids, spouses also joined employees in touring the Station, participating in learning activities, and enjoying a light snack. Participants then joined their sponsors at their work sites for a more in-depth introduction to their workday. It was a very worthwhile event that was enjoyed by all.

Station welcomed (b) (6), the new Electric Power Equipment and Air Conditioning Technician.

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

On 4-5 May, BBG's Interim CEO and Director, Andre Mendes, made a whirlwind visit to the Sao Tome Transmitting Station. In his ongoing effort to be more available to the BBG staff at every level, Director Mendes addressed the staff in a group setting early Monday morning. He recognized this team's outstanding broadcast availability and teamwork. Then, he spent the rest of the day in on- on-one sessions with any staff member who wished an audience.

Monday evening, the Director addressed a class of English language students at the local university. That his native language is Portuguese was of particular interest to the students. Sao Tome is a Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) country. Students were interested to learn the Director's path to success from his

native Portugal. Director Mendes stressed hard work and accepting any opportunity that might present itself.

Tuesday morning, the Director addressed a group of journalists invited for the occasion. He spoke of the VOA mission and how the local transmitting site helps it achieve that mission into Africa. Again, he was very well received and responded to a lively Q&A. The morning was rounded out with tours of the national radio and television stations. Here the Director could see firsthand the equipment challenges that journalists face every day to get their message to air. He promised to help by identifying obsolete and excess equipment in Washington to repurpose in Sao Tome.

The Station's 25KW MW transmission line shorted out. The trench containing the buried transmission line was opened up for the entire run of 1400 feet to find the short. The short is repaired, but the trench remains open while the station determines if funding is available to lay a redundant transmission line in parallel.

Station riggers, Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6), returned to Sao Tome from a successful trip to IBB Germany (Lampertheim), having assisted with the antenna and tower inspections there.

Station availability for the month was 99.89%. The Transmitter Plant had a total of 2,660 program broadcast hours with 2.91 hours of outages. Almost all of the outages (2.83 hours) were caused by program feed problems from Washington on six different days.

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

The beginning of the month was marked by the first visit of Secretary of State John F. Kerry to Sri Lanka. Mr. Kerry was in-country for a brief 24-hour visit on 2 May. He held a town hall meeting for all mission employees at the Hotel Taj Samudra.

The Station acquired a new tool, the "Inspire 1" Quadcopter camera. The new camera was put to use by the Station Manager to inspect the conditions of the antenna guyed towers. It is a very smart piece of equipment.

All staff attended the annual First Aid training conducted by the Sri Lanka Red Cross' Chilaw Branch.

This month, overall Station availability has dropped from 99.82 % to 99.74% due to 4.09 hours of program outages. The majority of these outages were due to issues with transmitter IRA-04.

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

The Station's Administrative Management Specialist attended contracting training at Management Concepts in Washington, DC. During her absence, the Embassy's Momentum financial system was shut down for a major software upgrade. Station administrative operations continued without incident using a government purchase card and petty cash.

Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6), of the Udorn Transmitter Plant successfully completed Unified Cisco Call Manager training.

The Udorn Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department (fire department) provide the Udorn staff with fire safety awareness training and specific refresher training on the use of fire extinguishers.

Work continued on replacing HVAC systems at Udorn with good progress this month. A team from York/ Johnson Controls of Khon Kaen completed changing out 3 of 12 air handler units, all in the Facilities building. Another team of technicians from Johnson Controls has completed replacement of all pneumatic variable air volume (VAV) controls in the Facilities and Transmitter & Administration buildings with direct digital control by wire thermostats and VAV controllers.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404. Of this amount, only about \$200 K remains available for emergencies and to possible cover shortfalls related to end-of-year contract awards. An A/E task order was issued in May to send a structural consultant to the Sri Lanka Station to provide a professional, third-party assessment of serious antenna corrosion; he is scheduled to start his on-site investigations on July 1, 2015. A Facilities Condition survey was conducted at the Northern Mariana Station in May. CON issued a FedBizOpps announcement for a Systemwide electrical maintenance project on June 19th.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. A couple of weeks passed before ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized. ITI has been working on grounding of the consoles, installing monitors, and cabling. They have started performing preliminary internal testing while performing the installation. Presence of other trades has been limited to 2 days; therefore not much work has been done to correct the deficiencies. GSA indicated that a new Contracting Officer has been assigned to the project. ARRIBA submitted a new project schedule, which still under review. We still have some issues with activities in the schedule, especially with ARRIBA's demobilization and mobilization during the 35 day migration to the new console area. A significant number of tasks are required to be performed in the NCC before and during the migration period. The NCC staff has requested assistance from all of TSI.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, both the City of Delano (airport expansion) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species habitat) are interested in the site. Before any final decision is made, a feasibility study must be conducted on the plans for the airport expansion. **(No change)**.

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

An on-coming local driver attempting to overtake a slower vehicle forced an FSN technician off the road as he was traveling to the MW transmitter site at 5am to check on the transmitter. While the Station's pickup truck overturned, the employee was not injured.

The Botswana Power Company (BPC) is still battling power grid issues with no end in sight. All domestic meters are limited to 10 amps of current between the hours of 5pm–10pm. The first over-current violation causes power to be removed for one hour; if power consumption has not been reduced, the power will be cut for four hours. So far, transmitter operations have not been affected by this requirement, but Station generators are on hot stand-by.

Station was visited by the Embassy's Human Resources Officer (HRO), **(b) (5)**, who toured the Station and gave a briefing to the staff on HR issues. One of the main issues discussed was retirement benefits. A new investment program similar to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) will soon be available to the Foreign Service National (FSN) staff.

Station took delivery of a new Toyota pick-up truck. Vehicles in this part of the world are expensive; however, we were able to save a little money by buying from a dealer in Polokane, South Africa.

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

Due to several days of higher than normal temperatures in the area, the Station operated its auxiliary power generator to reduce power costs. On 22 June, the Station experienced a momentary power outage while operating in the peak shaving mode with the auxiliary power generator. The problem was quickly isolated and building power restored.

Visitors during the month included **(b) (6)** and **(b) (6)** from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

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

The Station's two contracting officers and two of its credit card holders completed a Purchase Card Advance course conducted at the American Consulate General in Frankfurt.

The downlink to Al Manar TV in Beirut was moved from the Nilesat 201 satellite to BADR 4 satellite in an attempt to correct low signal gain issues. The transfer improved the TVRO (television receive only) signal from close to nothing to a stable BER (bit error rate) E-4.

At Biblis, the planned work in the Master Control Room and Transmitter Hall was completed. Work included: removing obsolete wires, testing the redundancy of the two independent alarms systems, and making changes to the Station Automation System's (SAS) software to improve detection of operational system outages and ensure alarms are sent to the duty technician. In addition, communication paths were converted to internet protocol (IP)-based equipment and expensive Panasonic fiber optic cables were removed.

Due to a burned 10KV breaker switch at the electrical substation, the transmitter at Pol E Charkhi, Afghanistan was off air from 18 June to 22 June.

The Harris medium wave (MW) transmitter at Khost, Afghanistan was off the air from 21 June to 28 June. The troubleshooting of the transmitter was finished with the help of a technician from Pol E Charkhi. Several defective components were repaired and the transmitter has resumed broadcast operations with full power.

Due to very strong winds on 29 June, the roof of the MW building at Orzu, Tajikistan was completely ripped off and fell onto the MW antenna transmission line causing severe damage, which also affected the cabling for the main satellite dish for the AsiaSat satellite. All necessary repairs were made and the transmitter has resumed broadcasting.

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

The Kuwait Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) performed scheduled preventive maintenance on their transmission systems and feeder Stations this month. MEW coordinated with the Station to switch between feeders to avert interruptions to the main Transmitter Plant building and systems. However, there were a total of 1.90 hours of outages on the medium wave transmitter, KWT-C, due to it being powered on just one dedicated feeder.

Station Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6) departed for IBB Sri Lanka to assist in the inspection and evaluation of problematic antenna systems there.

The new Embassy Regional Security Officer, (b) (6), visited the Station for an orientation tour.

All LES (locally employed staff) personnel attended a Town Hall meeting at the Embassy to receive the very welcome news that the Embassy had gained preliminary approval for changes in the LES Compensation Plan, which included pay increases that also included new allowances for housing and children's educations. Needless to say, this news gave our LES staff a considerable morale boost. The Embassy announced the final approval of the increases on 29 June and advised that the new benefits will begin with Pay Period 15 in July.

During Ramadan, Station work schedules shifted to accommodate special Ramadan leave provisions in the LES staffing plan. Normally, this is a peaceful time of year in Kuwait, but on the afternoon of Friday, 26 June that peace was shattered by an Islamic State suicide bomber who detonated his explosives in one of Kuwait's largest Shia Mosques, killing almost three dozen worshipers and wounding over one hundred. In the wake of this tragedy, Station staff has observed a heightened security presence almost everywhere. This incident is a grim reminder that peaceful Kuwait is not immune from the conflicts raging across the rest of the Middle East.

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

Tinian operations had a 99.86 % reliability during this month with 1,527.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts and 2.07 hours of program outages. The outages were program feed, transmitter and power related.

Saipan had one commercial power outage this month with 0.12 hour of program outages.

(b) (6), IBB Philippines Transmitter/Facilities Supervisor, visited the Station for M&R (maintenance & repair) project studies and coordination.

(b) (6), Network Support Branch (T/EOS/N) in Washington, visited the Station to conduct tension measurement calculations for the antenna guy wire M&R project and to perform site surveys for other M&R possibilities.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) (contract employees) attended an eight-hour Electrical Safety and Arc Flash/Blast training course with emphasis on hazardous energy (Lockout/Tag-out) safety.

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

A site survey was conducted for a new VOA radio affiliate in Mandaluyong City. This affiliate will uplink program materials from VOA to their provincial radio transmitters.

(b) (6), Facilities Supervisor, traveled to IBB Marianas for management oversight and to assist Richard Cai, T/EOS/N, with work connected with the Antenna Guy Replacement project.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), Computer Management Specialist and Radio Technician, respectively, traveled to Sri Lanka to perform quarterly IT maintenance.

The Station's overall reliability for the month was 99.6 %. The total scheduled program hours were 1953.2, with program outages of 7.8 hours. Of the 7.8 hours of program outages, 4.22 hours were due to the loss of the Washington feed on five different days, and 2.8 hours were due to the loss of the Philippines Broadcasting Service feed on six different days.

Twelve poorly operating switch bay cross heads have been selected for replacement. These cross heads are the backbone of Tinang's heavily utilized switch bays. In their current state, they have become high maintenance items causing frequent outages and unscheduled repairs, and are long overdue for replacement. The project materials are being funded through the M&R program and the fabrication of cross heads themselves is being done in-house by the Station riggers, with the first unit completed this month.

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

Broadcast operations were outstanding. Both Transmitter Plant and program broadcast availability for June were 100%. The Transmitter Plant had a total of 2,607 program broadcast hours with no outages.

B&G tower painters completed preventive maintenance on the southeast medium wave tower, painting a final coating of international orange and white.

U.S. Ambassador (b) (6), Consular Officer (b) (6) and Security Cooperation Officer (b) (6) arrived from the American Embassy, Libreville, Gabon to host U.S. Independence Day celebrations in Sao Tome.

B&G contractors poured a concrete anchor base for the screen side of antenna #02. This work will facilitate the rebuild of the screen, damaged by heavy winds in April.

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

Beginning this month, staff transportation was outsourced to ECD Global, a famous organization that meets various transportation needs of both the private sector and tourist industry in Sri Lanka. No new routes were introduced; however, staff pickup points were combined as much as possible to save travel time.

Starting 16 June, the Station ceased staffing its Master Control Room (MCR) from 1600-0730 hours local time Monday through Friday and all day on weekends and holidays. During these times, Station operations are monitored remotely. The designated Shift Supervisors assumed responsibility for the night shift and weekend shifts. They were provided with a laptop for monitoring programs and the shift vehicle to visit the Station in case of a breakdown that would warrant physical attention. This process is currently undergoing a trial period.

Routine work formally performed through the now defunct Buildings & Grounds contract has been outsourced to competent organizations on a per job basis.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Philippines, visited the Station to conduct quarterly IT maintenance. Mohsine Bakkali, IBB Kuwait visited the Station to assist the antenna inspection team and conduct general antenna maintenance. (b) (6) of AECOM arrived to conduct a structural review of the Station's towers and antenna systems

The Station deposited \$75,645.59 with the US Embassy. These Proceeds of Sale were generated from the sale of Station vehicles.

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

Station operations began the month with an unusual fault condition on 3 June. A phase fault occurred on the primary power for transmitter UDO-7. The transmitter was unable to turn on and was taken out of service for repair. The VAD-3 breaker was turned off and an interlock key was used to operate the grounding switch before gaining access to the transmitter power vault. When the grounding switch was operated, tremendous arcing was noted in the power vault, which was vigorous enough to melt the copper piping. The arcing was caused when the VAD-3 breaker failed to completely trip the main breaker in the switchgear room, leaving two of the main breaker's three phases active. No injuries, other than rattled nerves, occurred. Safety protocols were followed and no safety interlocks were defeated to gain access to the power vault. Had any safety features been defeated for convenience, it is very likely that injuries would have occurred. The lesson here is to trust and follow the safety protocols and instructions.

A rebuilt TH-558 was received from CPI-Econco and installed in transmitter UDO-1 for testing. A minor adjustment was required to increase screen grid voltage for proper screen current. The emission on this tube appears to be good and it has been operating without incident for the entire month. The cost of a rebuilt tube is about 50% of the cost of a new tube. Hopefully, this tube will enjoy a long service life, but only time will tell.

The Station Manager returned to the Station from a visit to the Embassy with southern hemisphere flu vaccines. Later, two nurses from the local Ban Dung hospital administered the influenza vaccine to all assembled staff members.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404. The annual M&R project call request was issued to the transmitting stations on July 9th; station responses are due by September 7th. The outside structural expert hired to make an assessment of serious antenna corrosion in Sri Lanka completed his extensive site investigation on July 17th; the draft report on his investigation is expected by mid-August. Several projects are pending possible award at the end of FY 2015, including: System wide electrical maintenance contract; Antenna Guy replacement at CNMI; Botswana air filtration contract (equipment purchase only); and other projects at Greenville.

NCC Renovation: 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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI has completed the installation of the monitors and most of the cabling. Commissioning has also been completed for the monitor's wall. Work pending includes installation of GFE parts for the Miranda monitoring system. The parts are expected on site on July 30, 2015. Presence of other trades has been limited this month; therefore not much work has been done to correct the deficiencies. We still have some issues with activities in the schedule, especially with the start date of the 35 day migration to the new console area. The current schedule shows the start date before Miranda testing, which is scheduled for September 14, 2015. We have contacted Miranda in an effort to bring this date forward. In the meantime, the NCC staff continues to allocate resources needed for the 35 day migration period.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be March 2016.

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

On the 17 July, U.S. Ambassador (b) (6), Embassy Management personnel, and the Station Manager met with personnel from the Botswana Department of Broadcasting, led by the Information Broadcasting Services' Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr. (b) (6). The meeting was held to discuss the initial steps in renewing the Broadcast / Land-use Agreements for the Botswana Transmitting Station.

The Station bid farewell to (b) (6), who retired after having serving 22 years with the U.S. Government as Station Chauffer. Daniel will be remembered by various departed Station Managers as a hardworking, dedicated USG employee with honesty and integrity. His footprints will remain and he will be missed by all at the Botswana Transmitting Station.

The Station Manager and the U.S. Ambassador (b) (6) attended the Selebi-Phikwe International Marathon.

The Station received an armored Toyota Land Cruiser to replace the armored vehicle that was excessed due to high repair costs. The new armored vehicle was provided by the Agency's Office of Security.

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

The Station's availability for the month of July was 99.95%. Overall transmission availability was 99.64% with 6.0 hours of program outages of which 5.17 hours were due to a one-time loss of the program feed from Washington. This loss was caused when the Network Control Center (NCC) experienced a major power outage on 22 July which affected the program feed. Fill music was used until the program feed was restored.

Work continues to re-commission transmitter GB-8 using the new HV (high voltage) power transformer.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) departed Germany for Thailand on 14 July. (b) (6) is being reassigned to the Thailand Transmitting Station. Before he left, he hosted a nice farewell luncheon for the Station staff.

This month marked the 20th anniversary of the transfer of responsibility for the operations of the Lampertheim and Biblis Transmitting Sites from RFE to the IBB, which occurred on July 1, 1995.

Because of this transfer, ten employees have now reached 20 years of service with the Agency. The Embassy is preparing the 20 year Length of Service Awards, which will be presented to them during the Fall Awards ceremony.

During the month, the Station continued to experience significant problems with its multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) system. Prague and IBB Germany experienced interruptions on the East fiber section. In addition, interruptions persisted on the return feeds for MBN and CATV. The problems were somewhat alleviated through the use of uplinks and downlinks to various satellites.

At Lampertheim, on 24 July, the part of the Station Automation System (SAS) that contains the program schedule database and extracts forthcoming schedule changes malfunctioned. Because of this situation, the control system did not change frequencies, thinking that the scheduled configuration was still valid. After a few hours, one of the transmitters detected missing audio, which initiated an alarm call to the standby duty technician, who was able to correct the situation.

In Afghanistan, the mechanical contractor travelled to several FM sites to check and eliminate problems with the generators. The defective generator from the Zabul site was sent to the IBB warehouse in Kabul, where it will be overhauled.

Several issues with Agency's internal Cisco Call Manager network were resolved, to include configuring the Washington DC router to forward calls to the transmitting stations, eliminating the need to use the external and expensive PSTN (public switched telephone network) to call the stations.

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

Station operations were somewhat challenging in July. With 5,916.5 scheduled program hours, there were 21.73 hours of irregularities. Although Station Availability was 99.91% for the month, System Availability was an abysmal 99.63%. The biggest outage occurred on 22 July when all program feeds were disrupted at Network Control Center (NCC) in Washington. The Station used music fill for most transmitters and was able to replace certain RFE/RL programs by using the backup Hotbird satellite KU band feed. In total, 15.83 hours of program transmissions were lost from our location alone.

(b) (6), from T/CN in Washington, visited the Station to setup an Elemental Live-Streaming server for Harmony (VOA China) video via the internet protocol security (IPsec) tunnel. He also did a survey for a proposed wide area network (WAN) hardware refresh in connection with future plans to migrate all BBG program feeds from the AOR satellite to a proposed multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) circuit. He also had a meeting with the local internet service provider's Q-Net staff for market research into expanding our fiber-optic feed bandwidth.

Kuwait personnel provided technical support this month for subsidiary FM transmitters in Amman, Jordan and Nairobi, Kenya.

On 9 July, the Station held a farewell lunch for Storekeeper, (b) (6) on his last day at the Station. (b) (6) was the latest happy recipient of a Special Immigration Visa (SIV) from the American Embassy and was off to California.

On 26 July, the recently-approved LES (locally employed staff) wage increase went into effect. In addition to a basic salary increase, the LES families will now get newly added housing and education allowances.

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

During the 4th of July weekend, several antennas at the Tinian Transmitter Site sustained damage when Tropical Storm Chan Hon passed over the island. On 9 July, a Typhoon Condition 1 was declared in anticipation of Typhoon Nangka; however, this storm passed well north of Saipan and did little damage to the Marianas.

On 7 July, telephone and internet connectivity was lost between the islands of Saipan and Tinian due to a broken underwater fiber cable group. The loss of this vital link had crippling effects throughout the islands. Emergency communications were out for nearly 24 hours and commerce was on a “cash basis only” for nearly a week. Backup microwave links, which had been damaged during earlier tropical storms, were eventually re-established. Teams of experts flew in from Guam and from as far away as Japan to assist with the recovery efforts. A repair vessel from Taiwan was contracted to fix the fiber cabling, with repairs affected about three weeks after the break. With the loss of telephonic and automation links, the Saipan and Tinian sites resorted to 24/7 manual operations. Satellite phone protocols and routines were established in order to provide information to the IBB Philippines and receive operational direction from them. With the Tinian-Guam internet connectivity link still in place, the Resident Engineer was able to extend limited file transfer and email traffic support to the Station using his personal residential service provider.

IBB Philippines Station Manager (b) (6) visited the Station, 26 – 30 July, and was accompanied by members of an OIG audit team ((b) (6)), the IBB Director of Financial Operations ((b) (6)), and IBB Physical Security Specialist ((b) (6)).

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

Supervisory Admin Management Specialist, (b) (6), attended Cash Verification Officer’s training in Charleston, SC, which completed the U.S. Disbursing Office’s (USDO) requirement for him to function as Cashier Verification Officer.

Assistant U.S. Disbursing Officer, (b) (6), from the Comptroller and Global Financial Services’ (CGFS) Bangkok office visited the Station to review cashier operations. While there were no problems noted, Mr. Carreon did suggest a process revision that would expedite our lagging cashier replenishment process.

During the period 21-24 July, the Station was visited by an OIG audit team. The team included (b) (6) (State Department OIG Audit Manager), and OIG contractors (b) (6) and (b) (6) (Kearney & Company Auditors). The team was accompanied by (b) (6) the Agency’s Director of Financial Operations (CFO/A). The team focused on various data calls, property accounting, and financial management, and toured both Tinang and Poro, before proceeding to IBB Marianas to complete a similar audit of Saipan and Tinian. Station Manager (b) (6) stayed with the team throughout both visits.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Agency’s Office of Security visited the Station to introduce (b) (6) to the various security-related projects and systems at the Tinang facility. To end their visit, the Station Manager brought them to the U.S. Embassy so that they could meet with the Regional Security Officer. (b) (6) also accompanied the Station Manager and the OIG audit team on their visit to IBB Marianas.

The staff worked with personnel from the Network Control Center (NCC) and Kabul to resolve a problem that caused a dropping of the Kabul Video during broadcasts. This issue was resolved by increasing the transmitted power of the Kabul Video carrier.

The staff reconfigured the Cisco Call Manager inter-cluster trunk to IBB Botswana, which allowed the IBB Philippines, Marianas, and Sri Lanka CISCO Call Managers to perform outgoing and incoming calls to and from Botswana.

The Station took steps to repair a 50-year-old culvert bridge, which had been ravaged by heavy rains and seasonal typhoons. The staff also completed refurbishment of the old SIS storage van. Deteriorated plywood flooring was replaced with metal plates, and walls were repaired to prevent water penetration.

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

On 25 July, generator #1 shut itself down, resulting in a brownout followed by a Station blackout. As a consequence, the solenoid and voltage supervision card on transmitter SAO-1's medium voltage switchgear failed. Transmitter SAO-5's attenuator also was damaged.

Station riggers completed preventive maintenance on field switches #02, 03 and 04, replacing six refurbished ring contacts, finger and contact plates, and adjusting the switches. The also completed preventive maintenance on antenna #08 replacing corroded big grip dead end preforms on vertical lines of the screen side. In addition, the riggers and painters continued corrosion control maintenance on tower #11, scraping, removing rust, and priming up to the 1st platform.

B&G personnel continued with corrosion control and painting in the compound, taking advantage of the dry season.

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

The long awaited new chauffeurs, (b) (6) and (b) (6), joined the IBB Sri Lanka staff effective 27 July.

Station Nurse (b) (6) conducted automated external defibrillator (AED) refresher training for the Admin and Facilities staff. The Transmitter staff will receive the training on a future date as they were busy with the visiting IBB Germany staff.

(b) (6), AECOM, completed the antenna inspection to determine the structural condition of antenna towers.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Germany, arrived at the Station to assist Station technicians with ongoing repair projects on the Marconi and Continental transmitters.

The Station is continuing with unmanned operations covering two shifts. The Marconi transmitters are still plagued with numerous operational issues. Station technicians, with the help of the technicians from IBB Germany, are sorting through the issues. They hope to fix or develop work-a-rounds for the problems, and improve transmitter reliability.

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

The Transmitter Plant Supervisor made courtesy calls to the technical representatives at the Thai Government's Public Relations Department (PRD) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and met

briefly with the Station's counterparts at the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) in Bangkok before returning to Udorn.

The Station's power provider, Provincial Electric Authority (PEA), performed maintenance to the primary power lines #1 and #2. Power was not interrupted for any of this maintenance, and normal operations at Udorn continued.

On 8 July, Station Management traveled to Bangkok to have a working lunch with the new Director of the Public Diplomacy Division, formerly known as the Broadcast Division, of the Ministry of Information at the Thai Foreign Ministry. His First Secretary and the Senior Technician at Radio Saranrom also attended. Improvement of the connectivity between MFA and the IBB MW transmitter at Rasom was discussed, and an informal discussion touched on the upcoming country-to-country agreement negotiations. The Director and the First Secretary have recently assumed their duties, and will be working with Station Management.

The Station Manager attended a special ICASS meeting to discuss sensitive issues related to a new local compensation plan. Impact on agencies' budgets were identified and discussed. Changes in the local compensation plan will likely be published and take effect in country by pay period 18.

Ninety-six students and teachers from the Ban Phue Vocational College visited and toured the Udorn Transmitter Plant.

The Transmitter Plant Supervisor and a Senior Radio Technician traveled to Mongolia the week of 20 July to provide emergency service to restore the FM transmitter for Standard M. HQ Washington shipped replacement parts directly to the Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, and so those parts were available for the Station's team upon arrival. Preventative maintenance was also performed after the transmitter was repaired and back in service.

System availability in July was the lowest in recent memory. It must have been a poor performance month for all other stations as well, because the bulk of lost time this month was associated with a rare power failure in Network Control Center (NCC) in Washington that apparently took down the entire network. Excluding this event, the Udorn transmitter availability was 99.98% and the transmitter availability in Rasom was 99.96% for July.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: The M&R Plan for FY 2015 was approved by TSI management on Dec. 10th. This 3-year plan was then sent to the Transmitting Station Managers to allow them to identify those essential projects that should be funded this fiscal year. Our total availability of M&R funds, including carry over, is currently established at \$2,727,404. The annual M&R project call request was issued to the transmitting stations on July 9th; station responses, which are due by September 7th, are starting to come in. Submission of the report from the outside structural expert, hired to make an assessment of serious antenna corrosion in Sri Lanka, is now expected on Aug. 31st. Several projects are pending possible award at the end of FY 2015, including: System wide electrical maintenance contract; Antenna Guy replacement at CNMI; Botswana air filtration contract (equipment purchase only); and other projects at Greenville.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI has completed the installation of the monitors, cabling, and commissioning has been completed for the monitor's wall. The GFE parts for the Miranda monitoring system have been installed, but some work by our contractor needs to be completed to be ready for Miranda testing on September 14, 2015. There has been some progress correcting deficiencies, but presence of trades on site still is limited. We notified GSA that final inspection won't be performed until all of the deficiencies are corrected. We also continue to have issues with the project schedule and documenting systems' commissioning in phases to match project requirements. Final acceptance cannot be completed without reviewing and approving the commissioning report. The 35-day migration is still on schedule for September 21, 2015. The NCC staff continues to plan and allocate resources for the 35-day migration period.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be during the March-June 2016 timeframe.

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

People living south of the Station are experiencing water shortages; however, the Station is not experiencing any shortages, as the well located on the Station's premises continues to supply ample non-potable water on a daily basis.

The contract to build two air filtration units for the Administration & Transmitter building was awarded to Apache Manufacturing located in South Africa. Apache builds specialized HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) units for larger companies such as Carrier. After the units are delivered, a request for proposal (RFP) will be fielded for the installation.

The Botswana Medical Aid Company conducted quarterly health/wellness and screening sessions for the Foreign Service Nationals.

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

Station availability for the month was 99.96%. The Station transmitted 1,669.25 hours of programming and experienced 0.65 hours of outages, which were transmitter related.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training was given to the staff.

Visitors for the month included Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

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

The Station was confronted with major maintenance issues with the high voltage (HV) switch gear at the Biblis Transmitting Site. While testing the 40-year-old prime HV switch gear, severe damage was discovered, requiring the Station to implement immediate emergency repair work to prevent a fatal power outage. However, due to the age of the breakers, the type of defects found, and the safety risks involved, the long term solution is for a complete replacement of the HV switch gear.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), RFE/RL visited the Lampertheim Transmitting Site to replace a defective firewall at the RFE/RL "Prague" backup system/network. This was just a one-day visit, and the problems related to the firewall were corrected.

The new Financial Management Officer (FMO/Berlin), (b) (6), visited the Station, where he toured the transmitting sites and was briefed on Station operations and activities. Before leaving, he mentioned that he now has a better picture when he certifies IBB obligations for funding.

Station engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) returned from a successful service trip to IBB Sri Lanka, where they worked with the Station staff to improve the Station automation system's (SAS) reliability during unmanned operations. The main problem affecting reliability is the automatic tuning of the Station's Marconi transmitters, whose auto tune control systems are worn out, and manufacturer and spare parts support is no longer available. The control systems are showing increased numbers of failures, requiring more and more human interventions at the local transmitter panels for manual switching, tunings and workarounds. Mechanical maintenance is required almost daily. The team was able to provide the Station with a workaround to improve the tuning of these transmitters, but the long term solution is to replace the control systems with state of the art FP-2 PLC control systems.

Several monitoring links to the Agency's FM sites in Iraq are still lost completely, and a few are periodically offline. Good news arrived from Mosul that two FM frequencies and a TV transmitter went back on the air, with the contractor reporting that the Agency's programs are the only ones on air in this area.

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

The Station began work on restructuring its legacy Building and Grounds (B&G) contract, which expires in September, to remove four "Personal Services" type job functions (two contracted shift-bus drivers, a maintenance/rigger helper, and a stock room clerical worker) that based on a legal opinion are no longer considered proper to have on a B&G contract. The Station's plan is to eventually increase LES (locally employed staff) staffing by four positions to replace these contracted jobs. In the meantime, the Station is extending the current B&G contract for three months, on a purchase order basis, to accommodate the transition.

In July, the Station submitted purchase orders to locally procure two new replacement vehicles. Normally, when dealing with locally procured diplomatic vehicles, the auto dealership will register the purchased vehicles with the Kuwait Ministry for Traffic Affairs. Once that is done, they can deliver the purchased vehicles to the U.S. Embassy. Unfortunately, when the dealership approached the Traffic Department to register the Station's vehicles, the Ministry refused to register them. Apparently, a few months ago, the Traffic Ministry presented the U.S. Embassy with a bill for about \$87,000 USD in radar speeding tickets and other traffic violations dating back several years, and the Embassy has been unable to pay off the tab due to antiquity of the violations. So, a diplomatic standoff is underway between the Embassy and the Kuwait Traffic department, with IBB Kuwait is stuck in the middle. Naturally, we have asked the Embassy Administrative Management Office to press the Kuwait Government to make exceptions for our new vehicles.

The Department of State has mandated that all agencies at diplomatic posts, which participate in the Embassy housing pools, must now also buy into the Embassy's furniture pool. Consequently, IBB Kuwait is going out of the household furniture business after the current Station Manager and Resident Engineer retire and leave post. With two new leases anticipated within the next year means that the Station must buy into the pool this fiscal year at \$64,522 USD per lease. The Station is attempting to negotiate with the Embassy for an equitable trade-in deal for its new and serviceable furniture to mitigate its cash buy-in costs.

Station personnel provided technical support for the following VOA FM 24/7 transmitter sites: Ajloun & Amman, Jordan and Agadir, Morocco.

The Station installed a new 1-meter satellite dish for monitoring the YAHSA Y1A satellite, as requested by Washington, in preparation for monitoring of two new HD channels for PNN and Radio/TV Farda.

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

On 2 August, Typhoon Soudelor made a direct hit on the Island of Saipan. Actual maximum winds in excess of 120 mph demolished Saipan's power generation facilities and distribution grid, with an estimated 800+ power poles broken or otherwise damaged. The winds uprooted or broke numerous trees and laid waste to most tin-roofed and wood constructed homes and businesses. As a result of the power outage, Saipan also lost its water and sewer pumping systems. Other effects included the interruption of various communications infrastructures that had barely recovered from a devastating outage the previous month. For the first few weeks following the storm, long lines had to be endured at the few operating gas stations, which were rationing limited available stock. A shortage of potable drinking water was also a problem during those weeks. As of the end of the month, most residents are still without power and water, and simple conveniences, such as laundry service, require standing in line and long waits. It is not uncommon to see folks camping out in air conditioned public buildings like the Post Office, just to cool off and charge their cell phones.

Storm damage forced the Saipan Transmitting Site to operate on standby generator power, but on 16 August, the emergency generator shut down due to cooling system problems. This situation forced the site to operate using two small generators, which provided power to the IT network, microwaves, telephones, and various security and lighting systems. IBB Marianas administrative staff members traveled to the Tinian Transmitting Site and will operate from there until the standby generator is repaired or commercial power is restored. The Saipan site received damage to antennas 270M and 195M during the storm. Antenna 270M repairs took less than a week to be completed and antenna 195M is pending final repairs.

Tinian site had its share of storm related problems but never lost commercial power during the storm. The Tinian antenna systems took a beating. Most of the damage was to the larger low band antennas. The antenna rigging crew worked extended hours and days to repair these assets, with repairs finally completed in three weeks. These repaired antennas allowed the Tinian site to cover the broadcasts usually assigned to the Saipan site. As of the end of the month, Tinian continues to air the entire Station's broadcast schedule.

(b) (6), an Operations and Maintenance contractor staff member at Saipan, was injured on 27 August while installing a transformer. The transformer also sustained damage during the same incident. The rigging used during the installation was inadequate, and when the load shifted, the transformer fell from its attachment.

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

Personnel from the Embassy's Human Resources (HR) section conducted a Health Benefits Orientation with the LES (locally employed staff) staff at the Tinang site, with two of the Poro staff also attending this briefing. The purpose of the briefing was to orient LES personnel on the changes to the Philippines' PhilHealth medical benefits for LES and on the upcoming changes to the new LES Healthcare Insurance which will be effective 1 February 2016.

Electronics technicians (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Poro site for quarterly maintenance of the security cameras and equipment.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) attended the Implementing CISCO IP Switched Networks Training held at Trendsnet Training Center, Makati City.

The Station completed phases 3, 4, and 5 of Maintenance & Repair (M&R) Project No. 1522, which covers repainting of the transmitter hall.

Global Networks and Sprint scheduled maintenance on the multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) circuit gave way to the reconfiguration of the Tinang CE (Customer Edge) routers and the installation of an Ethernet card on CE Router #1 as part of the failover circuit between the two MPLS edge routers. A three-minute downtime was noted on the circuit during that time. Minimal glitches were otherwise encountered on the MPLS circuit during this month.

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

Broadcast operations were outstanding. Program broadcast availability was 100.00%. The Transmitter Plant broadcasted a total of 2,683 program broadcast hours with no outage hours.

Riggers completed preventive maintenance on the frame supports for the medium wave (MW) 9-inch coaxial line, replacing corroded U-bolts and adjusting the level of the coaxial transmission line. They also replaced some corroded dead end grips on the vertical lines on the curtain side of antenna #06.

Buildings & Grounds (B&G) painters began corrosion removal, priming and painting of the Transmitter & Administration Building, picking up where they finished off last season.

B&G rigger/painters continued corrosion control maintenance on tower #11, completing all scraping, rust removal, and priming. A secondary coating is scheduled for next month.

Regional Medical Officer (b) (6) visited the Station.

Station worked with DLA Energy Branch to amend their fuels contract from fixed price to 5-day rolling average pricing. The change will require about two more weeks to be implemented.

Both Security Services and B&G Services contracts were awarded by Office of Contracts (CON) on 31 August 2015. The Station sends special thanks to Herman Shaw and Myria Carpenter in CON.

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

Ambassador Keshap arrived in Colombo on 19 August to assume duties as the United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The Station staff also attended a Town Hall with the Ambassador on the 19th.

Chauffeur (b) (6) reported for duty on 9 August.

The Station Nurse conducted automated external defibrillator (AED) training for the Transmitter Plant Staff.

All Station Chauffeurs and employees authorized to drive government vehicles attended the "Driver Direct on Road," Defensive Driving Course conducted by the US Embassy's Driver Trainer.

This month the Station continued with unmanned operations during "off-hours" and holidays. The Station Automation Team (SAS) team from Germany was here to implement modifications to the Marconi transmitters; however, the Marconi transmitters are still plagued with numerous issues. The inconsistency in which problems appear is most confusing and difficult to fix. The inherent instability of the Marconi auto tune system seems to be non-repairable, and the ultimate solution will require replacing the existing auto tune system with a programmable logic controller (PLC).

In spite of the Marconi transmitter issues, this month's transmitter availability has slightly improved. However, the overall station availability has dropped since last month, as there was a major outage when the SAS did not switch the Antennas Matrix. All efforts to resolve the fault remotely failed and a technician had to drive up to Station to re-set the systems. This fault has not recurred since. The Station is considering operating the 3rd shift with an operator on site because the Marconi transmitters are in operation during this shift only.

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

The month began with a visit and tour of the Udorn Transmitting Site by 60 students and teachers from Nong Khai Technical College on 5 August. The 3rd week of the month is always National Science Week in Thailand, and this year the Station hosted 600 young students and their teachers from neighboring schools on the 18th and 20th to commemorate the event. Many thanks to those staff members who met the call and assisted to host so many visitors. No one remembers a larger turnout at Udorn for National Science Week.

Work continues at Udorn to replace the air handlers. By the end of the month, only one unit remains to be replaced and it is the largest and most cumbersome to replace. The unit serves the transmitter plant and master control room (MCR) and is quite large. It was removed in halves. On the last day of the month, temporary air conditioning units were installed to provide cooling for the equipment and personnel in the MCR during the transition.

The Station acquired safe driver training from a commercial driving school in Udorn. Two training sessions were provided for the benefit of everyone who operates a U.S. Government vehicle.

At the request of the IBB Office of Marketing and Program Placement in Bangkok, the Station sent two technicians to Cambodia. They performed preventative maintenance and installed TVRO (TV receive only) systems and audio routing switchers at IBB affiliated stations in various locations throughout the country to include: Siem Reap, Kampot, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Udor Meanchey, Battambang Province and Phnom Penh.

Six members of the IT Refresh Team from HQ Washington visited IBB Thailand to survey hardware and networking facilities that will be replaced or refreshed next month.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: A report by an outside consultant hired to conduct a structural review of the antenna towers in Sri Lanka was submitted on September 21st; the report confirms the existence of extensive corrosion-related damage to the tower systems, and estimates the cost of remedial action at \$5.2 million. Several projects were awarded at headquarters at the end of FY 2015, including a numbers of projects for Greenville, and

a Systemwide wide electrical maintenance contract that provides for the calibration, testing, maintenance and minor repair of the electrical distribution systems at the transmitting stations.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing, including the lack of full integration between the new and existing Miranda equipment. We immediately notified GSA, which requested a meeting with the contractor. As a result of the meeting, ITI was tasked to submit a remediation plan on September 30, 2015. The plan has been received and it's currently under review. Commissioning of mechanical and electrical systems was also performed during the week of September 14, 2015. ARRIBA submitted the commissioning reports, which were sent back due to inaccurate information stating no issues with the Miranda system, in addition to missing pre-functional checklists for the system. Some of the outstanding submittals have been received and there has been some progress completing the deficiency list with only 9 outstanding items. We have notified GSA that final inspection won't be performed until all of the submittals are received and the deficiencies are corrected. Also, final acceptance cannot be completed without reviewing and approving the commissioning reports. The 35 day migration start-date remains to be determined. We will have a better idea regarding the schedule after we discuss and approve the remediation plan for the Miranda system with the contractor.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be during the March-June 2016 timeframe. **(No change)**

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

As the weather begins to heat up, the electricity problem still looms over Botswana. South of the Station, citizens are experiencing water shortages as well. The water well located on the Station premises is still supplying ample non-potable water on a daily basis.

Embassy DCM **(b) (6)** presented a U.S. flag to retiring Station employee **(b) (6)**. The flag, which flew over the Embassy, was presented to **(b) (6)** as a token of appreciation for his 21 years of service to the U.S. Government. **(b) (6)** was the driver and occasional purchasing agent for the Station.

On the 6th the Station Manager travelled to Johannesburg to meet with the owner of Apache Manufacturing System regarding the Air filtration System solicitation. The contract was signed and manufacturing of the units will begin in November.

Station was visited by the Embassy DCM, Mr. **(b) (6)**, Public Affairs Officer **(b) (6)** and **(b) (6)** on the 10th. The DCM and his delegation toured the Station and gave a briefing to the FSNs.

The Station Manager attended the Management meeting at the Embassy, Gaborone on the 24th.

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

The project to install a VESDA system in both GB-7 and GB-8 transmitter areas was completed during the month. A technical representative from Transradio visited the site and corrected a fault in the new GB-8 switchgear. Work continues to bring GB-8 back to operational status.

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

At the end of the fiscal year, the Station was highly concentrated on placing orders and assisting Washington in procurement activities. Several orders by the Deployment Branch (T/EBD) had been processed via Germany, speeding up the orders on urgent items significantly. The year-end closeout went fairly smoothly, with 99.94% of funding obligated.

The IDIQ contract for Engineer Liaison Services in Afghanistan was finally cleared by OGC and awarded before the year-end.

Lampertheim engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Kuwait Station to provide programmers training for IBB technicians on PLC and SAS systems. These systems have been installed at nearly every IBB station.

Satellite system technician (b) (6) upgraded the first 3.4m PRODELI TVRO system to a motorized two-axis system by VIKING. This system will enable it to swing a 3.4m TVRO between the SES6 at 319.5°E and the Intelsat 907 at 332.5°E. Both signals on these TVRO systems are circular polarized. Our plan is to convert additional 3.4m TVRO systems for C-band and KU-band polarized. The advantage is quite simple. It is quite difficult to move and tune antennas in the wintertime. In addition, having to work on scaffolds and lifts and to operate battery-powered test equipment at low temperatures is difficult. Once the systems are motorized, satellite TVRO systems can be moved just in a click.

Two satellite technicians participated in the annual IBC 2015 broadcasting show. The show is the largest broadcast technology show in Europe. It provides an excellent opportunity to stay current with technical progress and ideas.

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

IBB Germany technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived in Kuwait September 4th to provide two weeks of specialized training for IBB Kuwait technicians. The first week was dedicated to PLC Programming for Panasonic FP-Series and the second week was devoted to Visual Basic Programming Development. Both subjects are core knowledge requirements pertaining to modifying/updating the Station's Supervisory Automation System (SAS). For the hands-on lab work, each student had a networked terminal with connections to actual PLC blocks that were connected to kinetic devices to be actuated via the student's programming.

The instructors report that the training went better than expected, with even them learning new things about programming capabilities. As for the students, they ended the two weeks being inspired for creative solutions that the training unlocked. (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed post September 18th with their souvenirs of their fortnight in the land of sand.

On September 16th, Embassy DRSO (b) (6), ARSO (b) (6) and ARSO (b) (6) visited the Station to inspect the physical security systems and do a 'Duck and Cover' drill.

During September, Station personnel provided technical support for the following VOA FM 24/7 transmitters: Manama, Bahrain; Doha, Qatar; Dakar, Senegal; and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

This month the Station was also tasked with an unusual requirement to split out Radio Sawa FM transmitter locations running the Sawa Gulf stream to the Sawa Levant because of a temporary programming change to accommodate a period of official mourning in the UAE. The Sawa Gulf stream played somber music in respect for UAE troops who died in Yemen. We had to contact the 24/7 FM's in Bahrain and Qatar to change their feed to the Sawa Levant stream during the period approximately September 10 to September 13. This also affected the Djibouti Sawa programming, handled by Germany, as well as the Radio Sawa Gulf stream on KWT-A (1548kHz) and KWT-F (95.7mHz).

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

The Tinian site aired the entire Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station's broadcast schedule during the month of September. The instability of the commercial power coupled with the failure of the Saipan standby generator has necessitated keeping all broadcast missions on Tinian.

The Saipan site's commercial power resumed on September 4, but on-going island distribution repairs have plagued that power with frequent bumps and outages. As more sections and lateral branches are re-energized, subsequent outages occur. The local provider has no definitive schedule for these outages, as multiple crews are affecting the repairs simultaneously.

While the Saipan site now has power, the water supply remains an issue. The Station is relying on rainwater catchment initially designed and sized only as a supplement to the commercial water source. Thankfully, we are in the rainy season and this has been sufficient to provide for Station needs.

Last month a personnel injury with equipment damage reported damage to a transformer resulting from improper rigging practices. Follow-on testing and analysis of the transformer necessitated its replacement. Rome provided a replacement transformer that was installed on September 22.

Administrative Officers (b) (6) and (b) (6) remained TDY on Tinian most of the month. It was an especially busy time for them completing the fiscal year-end activities. (b) (6) championed completion of procurement activities backlogged from previous months. (b) (5) championed multiple Status of Funds reports, finally closing out the books for REKTS.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The Station had several visitors this month. On the 7th, a Guard Force Inspection unit comprised of Mr. (b) (6), Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) visited the Station from the US Embassy. Mr. (b) (6) followed from the 15th-18th to further a guard post field inspection and replace a VHF base station. Forty-four mechanical engineering students visited the Station from the Bataan Peninsula State University, Balanga, Bataan, on the 16th.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from TSI-headquarters were on site to effect changes on the IOR satellite configuration. In coordination with NCC, the Germany Team, and New Skies, the Tinang-Udorn SIS and MBN data carriers were brought down. We then coordinated with the various MERN stations for the reconfiguration and reassignment of new carrier frequencies. Everyone played a significant role ensuring the reconfiguration took place with minimal disruptions.

Station staff provided technical support to Sri Lanka on problems encountered on their digital sender. The team also resolved the Udorn problem on the delays in making calls from within the Call Manager configuration.

At long last, the EPDM roof installation project has been completed. Likewise, the project to enhance the appearance of the transmitter hall was accomplished this month.

A very old Matrix van that housed the TT2 antenna switch has been repaired this month. A surplus piece of EPDM roof membrane was laid over the leaky corroded roof to prevent water penetration. The deteriorated plywood flooring was also replaced with metal plates, while the walls were refurbished.

Flu Vaccines were administered by the Embassy Health Unit on September 18 at Tinang, and on September 30 at Poro. Vaccines were administered to all LE Staff, as well as to B&G Contractors and the Local Guard Force.

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

Over Labor Day weekend, Ambassador (b) (6) visited Sao Tome to attend STP Armed Forces Day celebrations. We took the opportunity to ask that she honor our staff by awarding 20-year service pins and certificates to seven of our LES in attendance.

On September 16th and 17th, RMO/P (b) (6) visited the Station for consultations.

September 18th the Station held its annual representational event at a local restaurant.

September 20th (b) (6) completed a three-year excursion tour in Sao Tome and departed STTS for return to his WDC assignment.

B&G mechanics once again augmented power plant technicians during the month due to short staffing. Power plant technicians replaced the spacer plate, head gasket and seals on genset #4 to stop water leakage on #7 cylinder head.

Riggers replaced a bad limit switch on antenna #5, as well as burned obstruction lamps on several towers. Arcing on antenna #1 was repaired and rigging preparations for the screen rebuild on antenna #2 begun.

DLA Energy Branch amended our fuels contract from fixed price per gallon to 5-day rolling average pricing. This change will reduce pricing for fuel to be delivered in November.

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

Long-time Procurement Agent (b) (6) tendered his resignation effective August 31.

The Station Manager and the Administrative Management Specialist departed Post on September 26 to attend training in Washington DC at Management Concepts.

Petty Cash Audit was conducted on September 23 by the Financial Assistant under observation of Admin. Management Specialist. No discrepancies were observed.

A special projects team from the USAID visited the Station on September 3. The new ARSO, (b) (6), and GFC team from USAID visited the Station on September 24.

Station conducted a bid sale on miscellaneous scrap material on September 19. Several sealed bids were received and the winning bid was submitted by (b) (6). The funds were deposited in the appropriate account in consultation with HQ.

This month overall station availability went up from 97.53% to 99.63%, and transmitter availability went up from 99.36% to 99.64%. The key reason transmitter availability increased is because the Station temporarily suspended unmanned operations during shift 3. As this shift has a heavy schedule, the Marconi transmitters are in operation. It is clear that the Marconis can't be reliably operated unmanned until the existing auto tune system is replaced by a PLC.

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

The month began with the IT refresh team at Udorn replacing our work stations and replacing older hardware with new virtual facilities. The IBB connectivity was successfully migrated off the SIS and onto terrestrial facilities. Wi-fi capabilities were also installed. The team did excellent work, commendable work. Their level of customer service to our staff was first class every day. They accomplished their mission at Udorn as scheduled and moved down to the Rasom MW site the week of the 14th.

The Transmitter Plant Supervisor and the Computer Mgmt Specialist traveled to Rasom to assist the IT refresh team who performed the same services in the same exceptional manner as they had previously done at Udorn. Following a highly productive week, they departed post as scheduled on the 20th. The SIS uplinks have been turned off and Station connectivity remained in service without any incident.

The Station Administrative Mgmt Specialist traveled to the Embassy to liaise with GSO and other Mission elements as the end of the fiscal year rapidly approaches. She has attained AOP/E COR certification and has been designated as the COR for all of the Station service contracts at Udorn and Rasom to include janitorial, gardening and facilities maintenance services.

The Station Manager, Transmitter Plant Supervisor and Management Secretary travelled to Bangkok the week of the 14th to meet with our counterparts at PRD and MFA. Mr (b) (6) was introduced to our colleagues and some issues related to a new country-to-country agreement were discussed with the Director of the Public Diplomacy Information Division. The PAO was advised of our meetings with RTG before we all returned to Udorn.

The Station's Budget Analyst traveled to Bangkok to close out the FY-15 station budget with the FMC accountant on the 22nd. Also on this day, the Station Safety Committee met at Udorn. There were no unsafe conditions found during the quarter and no injury accidents occurred since the last quarterly meeting. On the afternoon of the 22nd, the new Director of the PRD regional office and a Provincial Public Relations Specialist, Mrs. (b) (6) and two (2) of her staff, visited and toured the Udorn site.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: A draft three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 has been prepared and should be ready for TSI Office Director review and approval by late November.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority

(DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remediation plan was submitted on September 30, 2105. We have had a couple of iterations of questions and responses with the contractor. We are currently waiting on a revised drawing, which will document the work to be accomplished to resolve the Miranda system integration issues. Once this drawing is received and approved, GSA CO will direct the contractor to do the work. On site, some minor work has been completed, such as; touch up paint and installation of one handrail. ARRIBA resubmitted the commissioning reports, which are currently under review. A final inspection won't be performed until all of the outstanding submittals are received and the deficiencies are corrected. The 35 day migration start date continues to be unknown. We will have a better idea regarding the schedule after we approve the remedial plan for the Miranda system and GSA directs the contractor to complete the Miranda work.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be during the March-June 2016 timeframe. **(No change)**

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

The Station was visited by the Embassy ARSO, Mr. (b) (6) and FSN Investigator, Mr. (b) (6), on the 13th. The ARSO and FSN Investigator came to interview and renew staff members expired Embassy IDs and tour the Station.

T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer Richard Cai, and Sao Tome Rigger Supervisor Mr. (b) (6) arrived at the Station on the 15th. The purpose of their visit was to adjust the installed guy wires on the TCI short wave antenna towers and inspect the rest of the Station's antenna systems.

On the 16th, the Station Manager and T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer (b) (6) met with the owner of Apache Manufacturing System in Johannesburg regarding building of the Air filtration units for the Station. The contract was signed and manufacturing of the two units will begin in November.

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

The high voltage system of transmitter GB-8 was tested to verify correct operation of the new transformer and all was normal.

The winter broadcast schedule was successfully implemented using the most efficient transmitters.

Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General visited the site to perform a scheduled audit.

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

The Merit-Based Compensation Mid-Year discussions for Station staff was due in October. Thailand Station Manager (b) (6) who is still assisting with supervision of the Station staff in Germany, addressed this requirement.

Station staff participated in the E2 Local Payment Training at the Frankfurt Consulate hosted by (b) (6), CPA, Deputy Financial Management Officer, U.S. Embassy Berlin.

At the end of the month, the Station was confronted with significant problems with the MPLS transmissions. However, the problem was only related to feeds in the direction of NCC, while the feeds from NCC to LAM had been ok. The Station and staff from the Global Networks group at Headquarters are still investigating.

On October 5th, three engineers from Lampertheim visited the TRK site in Tajikistan to inspect the MW and SW transmitters. The transmitters were found to be in good condition. The team addressed a problem with SW antenna slew functionality, and also improved the automatic tune mode of the SW transmitter

During the month, we had some problems with the MPLS circuit between Lampertheim via Hamburg to Washington, DC. We detected glitches on the video and audio streams between the 2 locations. After troubleshooting, we found out that there were problems between the PE and CE link on the MPLS circuit. Sprint was able to fix this problem.

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

A link in the chain attachment for the folded dipole screen of antenna A3 broke, allowing the catenary cable to fall to the ground, and with it most of the dipole screen. Rigger (b) (6), (b) (6) and a few of the other B&G personnel spent many hours reworking all the damaged elements of the antenna system, and by the morning of the 25th, with only hours to spare prior to the start of the B15 schedule, the antenna was back in service. These few lines don't do justice for the effort our guys put into the restoration work, with many days starting at 5AM because of the hot weather extending into the third week of October.

Another major outage started the morning of October 28, when breakers tripped at the MEW south substation, disabling power for the short wave building area, the control room and all the satellite equipment. The Heinkel generator set would not start and the UPS units drained and everything shut down. The local dealer for the Deep Sea controller used in this generator set came out that afternoon and determined that the controller failed, and on the 29th we had a new controller installed. Another problem with the Heinkel generator set was located—for some reason, we could not get the float charging system to charge the generator set batteries. However, it was determined that a breaker in the DC bus feed was off and that was preventing the float charger from charging the batteries.

The Kuwait traffic department had initially refused to register two new replacement vehicles procured by the Station because of traffic fines owed by the Embassy; however, the embassy worked some magic and we now have these vehicles released and in our possession. Diplomatic plates for the new Cruiser will be a November activity, to replace the more typical private plates on the vehicle.

The Station's new Resident Engineer, (b) (6), arrived on the afternoon of the 8th. He has completed his embassy check-in process and will soon get his official credentials from the Government of Kuwait, making him totally legal. He has started the slow process of being acclimated to the Kuwait driving habits.

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

Both Tinian and Saipan experienced heavy rains and wind with the passage of Tropical Storm Champi on the 16th and 17th. Over 24 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours. The Tinian site experienced flash flood conditions, which inundated the T&A Building, covering its floors with as much as 2 inches of water. The site secured commercial power as a safety precaution until the water receded and the site was thoroughly dried. Broadcasts resumed on the evening of the 17th. Floodwaters also caused extensive erosion to the grounds adjacent to the buildings and around the transmission line distribution supports. Work continues to backfill and shore up these areas.

The Saipan site fared much better from the storm, with no appreciable damage or issues to report. The site staff finalized repairs to their backup power generator and monitoring system, and was able to resume

broadcasts on October 24. Saipan island power restoration is nearly complete. However, the transmitter site remains without its commercial water supply, which requires a continued reliance on rain catchment and potable delivery to support the facility.

A new CQK-650-1, serial number 779708, arrived at Saipan site on the 2nd for testing before shipping on to Tinian. Testing is delayed pending acquisition of lifting equipment needed to remove this tube from its crate.

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

Thirty-five LES were recipients of cash awards and certificates during the awards ceremony at Tinang on the 20th in recognition of their excellent performance, dedication, and outstanding achievements. In addition, Computer Management Specialist Ms. (b) (6), made a brief cameo in recognition of her being granted an agency Gold Medal Award.

A satellite receiving equipment was installed for affiliate DXNS-FM/TV station in Butuan City.

A successful unannounced Station fire drill was conducted on October 30. The response was very good, with no noted discrepancies to report.

From October 5-9, Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) went to the Sri Lanka station for a scheduled quarterly IT visit. While there they relocated computers, printers, and phones to a new security office. They also resolved issues with the telephone system call logs and incoming NCC calls.

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

On October 24th, a blown fuse in the switch box of antenna array #1 prevented field switch #2 from connecting to the correct position, and made antenna #04 unavailable. Station lost 30 minutes of Kinyarwanda/Kirundi and 30 minutes of Swahili programs on SAO-1.

On October 4th, Mr. (b) (6) was promoted to Power Plant Technical Supervisor. Also, a newly hired employee, Mr. (b) (6), started at Power Plant Technician.

On October 13th, Station Rigger Supervisor (b) (6) traveled TDY to Botswana to assist (b) (6) with down guy tensioning and other antenna maintenance. The rest of the rigging team began corrective maintenance on the screen of antenna #2.

Power plant technicians conducted valve lash adjustments on engines 1, 2, 3, and 5. They also replaced a failed coupling gear on the hose reel assembly at the Marine Fuel Terminal.

The Station's HVAC team supported engineering work on our Mogas project and began troubleshooting an abnormality with voltage regulation on the Transmitter/Admin Building's (TAB's) standby generator. They also balanced the high and low side of the TAB's chiller to minimize recent unscheduled shut downs.

B&G painters continued corrosion removal, priming and painting of the TAB, completing most of the north wall and beginning on the west wall.

B&G rigger/painters commenced corrosion control maintenance on tower #1 this month.

Preparations were initiated for a fuel offloading scheduled for November 5th.

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

October was a relatively quiet month for the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station with the Station Manager and the Admin. Management Specialist away in the United States attending training. Most staff took the opportunity to make use of the quiet period to avail their use or loose Annual Leave.

The Antenna Crew visited the Colombo Dock Yard on October 28 on an invitation by them to train our Antenna crew on the use of Sigma Paints. The whole Antenna Crew, together with the Facilities Plant Supervisor, attended this training session.

During the month the Antenna Crew attended to repairs of the RF field switch of antenna 340H and Broken feeder line of 340H. They also completed corrosion removal and applied primer coating painting on tower M. As a preventive maintenance measure, they cleaned all shelter cabins and visually inspected feeder lines. Contractor completed quarterly servicing of air conditioners and chillers. The crew also repaired and cleaned reflectors of the street lights of the Station.

Station staff is working hard to fine-tune the remote operation of the Marconi transmitters, in spite of the fact they are running into issues that appear to be interconnected. Clearing the bugs may be a never ending process, until the existing Auto tune/Remote control system in Marconi transmitters can be replaced with more efficient PLCs. However, as indicated by the availability figures, their efforts are having a positive effect on the operation of the Station. Nonetheless, this month the Station experienced most of the outages relating to the Antenna Matrix, field switches and transmission line. Considering the colossal volume of work facing the Antenna Crew, TX staff are helping in the repairs, gaining an insight themselves in the maintenance of these systems.

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

The month began with a visit from (b) (6), Director of the IBB regional Office of Marketing and Program Placement (OMPP) in Bangkok. Brigit visited October 5 - 7 to tour the Station and meet the new Station Manager, Mr. (b) (6). She was very complimentary of the support that the Station has provided to OMPP, notably concerning a recent visit by Station technicians to the FM in Ulaan Bataar, which restored the FM to service.

RSO Investigators (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to the Station at Udorn on the 8th and 9th to perform security re-validation of some contract embassy guards currently on duty at Udorn. On the 19th, the new ARSO who will service the Station, Ben Barnett, and RSOI khun Pun, traveled to Udorn to tour the Station and meet the staff. Immediately after their visit to Udorn, ARSO Barnett traveled to Rasom on the 21st to tour the site and review the Embassy guards. Some directions were provided to the guards to improve site access security.

During the week of October 12th, the Transmitter Plant Supervisor, the Computer Mgmt. Specialist and two Senior Technicians attended advanced Cisco Call Manager training in Bangkok. Also during the same week, Station Managers (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to the Embassy to conduct Station business and attend the Ambassador's country team meeting. On the 27th, the Managers attended a meeting with the DCM and the new Ambassador at the Embassy.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: A proposed three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 has been approved by TSI and is pending approval by the Global Operations Director.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015, which BBG and the GSA Project Team agreed included work to be performed at no additional cost to the government. However at some point through the review process, GSA Contracting Officer (CO) indicated that the remedial plan was additional work. After further clarification on site with the GSA Project Team, the CO changed her position. GSA is currently drafting a letter to direct the contractor to do the work. The first phase to fix the integration issues includes the submission of a revised drawing and narrative, which will document the work to be accomplished. Once this drawing is received and approved, the contractor will proceed with the work. On site, no new work has been completed. ARRIBA submitted the commissioning reports, which were not approved again and require resubmission. A final inspection won't be performed until all of the outstanding submittals are received and the deficiencies are corrected. The 35 day migration start date continues to be unknown. We will have a better idea regarding the schedule after we approve the remedial plan for the Miranda system and GSA directs the contractor to complete the Miranda work.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be during the March-June 2016 timeframe. **(No change)**

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

The Station donated computers and stationary to the Tlhabololo Primary School to assist in the school's development programs.

On the 17th the Station hosted the Botswana Medical Aid company to give quarterly health/wellness sessions to the FSNs.

The Station held a representation function for public diplomacy on the 21st. In attendance were several Botswana Government high officials, including the Mayor of Selebi-Phikwe, Representatives from the Members of Parliament offices, the Mmadinare Chief, Botswana Police, Botswana Defense Force Commanders, and School Heads.

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

Work continued on the master control room upgrade project. The original console transmitter panels were removed and replaced with peak-reading solid state metering devices. Obsolete wiring was identified and removed as appropriate.

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

A new data link was established between Lampertheim and Prague. Besides the 10.5 Mbps VC 18, we currently feed 17 additional C's of various content that were added to support Prague OPC with backup material. Just the MPLS links between the NCC and Lampertheim suffer similar problems like all the other ones to Prague, MBN and OCB. Stable connectivity is a problem.

The IBB Germany Emergency Action Plan was reviewed, updated and sent to IBB HQ prior to the deadline at the beginning of December. At the same time, all warden cascades had been reviewed and updated.

Preventive transmitter maintenance was performed at both sites. At Biblis, one transmitter was found to have a strongly distorted signal. Due to the pending switchgear replacement, troubleshooting of the cause could not be completed. Therefore, the impacted transmissions will be offloaded to another transmitter until the switchgear replacement work can be completed next month.

In support of Djibouti, the paint and greasing materials for the tower painting project arrived at the PK-12 site and were reloaded into two 20 foot containers. In addition, parts for the Thales MW transmitter were received at Lampertheim and will be forwarded with the next shipment to Djibouti.

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

At the start of the month, we lost our phone lines. After several contacts with the MOC to restore service, they reported there was a fiber optic cable cut between the 6th Brigade, Kuwait military and the Station, and that they were attempting to locate the fault. On the 4th, an MOC tech visited the Station and restored our telephone service by moving our fiber feed to a route directly from Jahra. This line will be our priority feed and the FO circuit via the 6th Brigade location is a redundant path.

On the 23rd, it appears we had a lightning strike at the Abidjan FM location atop the Alpha 2000 building. SEITED in Tangier coordinated a telephone consultation with Vincent and determined there was a defective 50VDC power supply. We had a spare on site, and installing that spare restored the system to operation on the 25th. We did incur some repair and cleanup for the AC primary wiring in the shelter, which was causing several breaker trips. Station is working with Daniel Maxwell to have a new spare power supply and MOV board shipped into Abidjan.

Also on the 23rd, we discovered damage in the main tower ATC for KWT-C, on the way to working on a tower light issue. One point is that the Continental 318.5 150kW transmitter didn't even take a hit with the problems in the ATU.

Mr. (b) (6), American Embassy DCM, visited Station and presided a meeting with Station staff.

Three Shift Supervisors, (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended the Basic Supervisory Skills Course at US Embassy for five days.

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

It has been nice to finally get a break from the adverse weather that has plagued the Northern Mariana Islands. The Tinian site is recovering well from the damaging floods that occurred from Tropical Storm Champi. Areas eroded by the flooding have been backfilled and are waiting a final topcoat of mesh and aggregate, sod or cement. Replacement of T&A Building exterior wall insulation is pending procurement of that material.

The Saipan site continues workup and planning for the upgrades to the Standby generator. Saipan Island power is fully restored but still has a high frequency of fluctuations and outages. While their restored water distribution system is now providing a limited supply to the site, rainwater catchment remains our primary source. We are hopeful that this issue will be resolved soon as the Mariana Islands are now going into their "dry season" and the availability of rainwater catchment may be limited.

The IBB staff was busy much of the month planning and preparing the budget estimates for the remainder of the fiscal year. (b) (6), Administrative Officer, had dutifully prepared the necessary records and spreadsheet templates for the budget prior to her departure for annual leave.

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, visited CNMI Sites on 16 to 20-November. Mr. (b) (6) had a busy schedule preparing for the pre-solicitation visit. Other activities included revision of the Performance standards for the new 5-Tier Evaluations.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in November:

A general overhaul was performed on transmitter PHT-5, which encompassed its mechanical variable inductors, L60 & L61 on the harmonic filter network, L59 PA plate loading inductor and L41 PA driver plate tune inductor. All moving parts of these big inductor assemblies were totally inspected, with worn parts being refurbished or replaced before they could become an on-air point of failure.

In coordination with NCC, PTU implemented the relocation and power alignment of Baghdad and Beirut Video Carriers to a new transponder on the 6th. Also, one of the two HPAs sent to CPI Singapore for repair was received and installed in the IOR System with power output coordinated with NCC and New Skies.

Replacement of Relays and MV Switchgear project was finally completed this month. This project upgraded the old electro-mechanical relays to digital, which have enhanced capabilities that provide complete protection, monitoring, automation, communication and metering. All electrical distribution panels now have digital relays, allowing for incorporation of automation functions such as remote monitoring of distribution panels.

A medical specialist from High Precision came to the Station on November 23 and 24 to complete required peripheral vision testing for the 43 incidental drivers assigned to the Station. Testing was coordinated by the Embassy Medical Unit, as part of mission wide safety standards for drivers of USG vehicles.

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

On November 5th, M/T African Chaser arrived in-roads at 0600 and was finally moored and cleared by local customs officials at 1430. Pumping commenced at 1545 and terminated at 0445 November 6th. Clean up operations were completed by 1030. 300,008 gallons of diesel fuel were received at \$3.63 per gallon. The next delivery of 330,000 gallons is anticipated for early October 2016.

On November 10th, Rigger Supervisor (b) (6) returned from TDY to Botswana Station, where he assisted (b) (6) adjusting tension on numerous structural guys.

Riggers continued the rebuild of antenna #2 screen by replacing vertical screen wires.

Power plant technicians exercised all active and spare vacuum breakers. Malfunctions on vacuum breakers #1 and #2 caused shorted diodes on their respective generators, and led to the replacement of both diode sets.

HVAC staff was finally able to activate the secondary circuit (B side) of the TAB chiller unit. They replaced a metering device, high pressure transducer and filter dryer.

B&G painters continued corrosion removal, priming and painting of the TAB, completing most of the west wall by end of month.

This month B&G began delivering non-potable water to a new high school that opened across the road from the Station. We now provide this service to Almas Elementary School, Almas Middle School and Alges Secondary School with a sum total of 2500 students in attendance. We average one delivery weekly to each of the schools, allowing for flushing of commodes and general cleaning. Kudos to our HVAC

team for revising the plumbing configuration of our reverse osmosis system so that salty waste water can be tapped for the schools rather than dispensed into the drainage ditch. This means that no additional water is pumped from Station wells to support the schools.

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

In the month of November, the Station experienced one of its worst power outages during the one and a half decades of its operation. The Station was in total darkness on November 19 after Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) power failed and the CAT generators—the Station's backup power source—also failed to come up. United Tractors (UTE), the service provider for the CAT Generators, was dispatched to the site to review the generators and provide damage control efforts. All Technicians from both the Transmitter and Facilities plants, along with the Station Manager, went above and beyond to identify and resolve the problems with our power distribution system. They united as a team, refused to accept failure, and persevered. This was done despite the fact that we did not have accurate diagrams of our power distribution network.

The Station Manager worked tirelessly with the Radio Technicians to reroute the UPS cabling in the Administrative Section. The transition was successful on the November 20, and the power was restored with rerouted new UPS cabling system intact.

Station Manager initiated a Town Hall Meeting for all staff on November 17 to explain the current situation of the Station.

The Petty Cash Audit was conducted by Admin. Mgt. Specialist and the Financial Assistant on November 13.

The following US Embassy personnel visited the Station on November 4: (b) (6), Facilities Manager and Post Occupational Safety & Health Officer (POSHO); (b) (6), Assistant to the POSHO; (b) (6), IPO; and (b) (6) and (b) (6) IPC reps. Further, the embassy nurse visited the Station on November 5 to administer flu vaccinations.

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

Operations were normal during the month of November. On November 2nd, Richard Baltes turned over the Station management responsibilities to in-coming Manager (b) (6). The transition was very smooth. Plans have been finalized for Richard's retirement celebration, which will be held on December 18th.

The Station continues discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) concerning the renewal of the agreement for the operation of the Ayutthaya/Bangkok Medium Wave Station. The MFA has requested training in program production and assistance in replacing equipment such as the server used for program storage and distribution. In addition, they have asked for assistance in improving their ability to stream programming on the internet.

The replacement of the air conditioning ducting is about 90% complete at the Ayuttaya/Bangkok Station. The work is expected to be completed by mid-December.

York/Johnson Controls continues to integrate the Station's fire alarm system into the control system for the new air handlers at Udorn. These modifications should be completed before the end of the month so

that the controllers can be programmed and commissioned, and to allow our employees to be trained on operating and maintaining the controllers.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1st. The Plan was then distributed to the Transmitting Station Managers for their information and to allow them to confirm their immediate funding requirements.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015, which BBG and the GSA Project Team agreed included work to be performed at no additional cost to the government. The CO went back and forth on her decision to direct the contractor to do the work at no additional cost. After further clarifications, the CO finally directed the contractor to do the work at no cost to the government. ARRIBA submitted a revised narrative and drawings per the CO's directive. The narrative and drawings were approved and ARRIBA was supposed to start work immediately. However, weeks have passed and the remediation work has not started. We also contacted GSA about the period of performance of the contract, since it ends on January 11, 2016. The GSA Project Team is meeting with the CO to decide on the best course of action. On site, no new work has been completed. The 35 day migration start date continues to be unknown until a project schedule is established.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is near completion. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. At this time, GSA is estimating that the earliest that the Delano property could be transferred to the FAA and City of Delano would be during the March-June 2016 timeframe. **(No change)**

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The B&G contract came to an end in September 2015. However, because there were some delays in finalizing issuance of the three new contracts, the B&G contract was extended to the end of December 2015. The new contracts are split into three categories: Buildings & Grounds, Janitorial Services, and Driving Services. The start of the driving services contract was extended by another month, as the new contractor is yet to finalize the needed requirements to provide the driving services.

The Station held Fire Prevention and Management Training (theory and practical) from January 1st through 4th.

On the 4th, the Station Manager departed post for Annual Leave and to attend Advanced Simplified Acquisition Procedures in Tysons Corner, VA.

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

The master control console upgrade project is nearing completion. New LED peak reading meters and panels have been installed in each transmitter remote control position. New Optimod audio processors were installed in the GB-1 through 7 audio input lines. The new processors replaced the Optimod model 9105A units that were installed in the early 1990s.

The project to replace the existing VHF two-way radio system was completed during the month. The new system uses a state of the art digital repeater system and allows coverage via hand held radio from any interior part of the building to any location on our 2800 acre transmitter site.

The Station held its annual Christmas party during the month, which was attended by staff, former IBB employees, guests and visitors.

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

Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) traveled to Prague for meetings with the IBB marketing office to discuss administrative and logistic issues with the affiliate stations. Procedures have been worked out for effective handling of services and contracts in accordance to government regulations.

(b) (6) travelled to Leipzig to inspect and accept the spider cage which we ordered for IBB Kuwait at the beginning of December; he also oversaw the packing of the unit by a special packer, the company Graf.

The US Consulate performed an emergency SMS cascade drill on 12/14/2015. All listed staff members had been notified. Need for this drill resulted from an unsuccessful phone cascade drill on December 9th, in which no IBB staff member had been contacted, either by RSO office or Frankfurt PAO.

The 40 year old switchgear substation at Biblis was successfully replaced this month. Malfunction of the former switchgear made it impossible to turn Station power back on after a power outage. Therefore, the switchgear had to be replaced urgently. Former power transformers for the admin building had been removed together with the restoration. These transformers became obsolete due to the new switchgear. Further, the Station will not have to maintain the obsolete transformers. The switchgears meets international and European standards. The switches contain a shielding gas. This reduces the required space. Station technicians received training from the installing contractors. In addition, the required PCB-Analyses have been done for all transformers. All transformers passed the tests.

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

The Station Manager returned to post December 6th after an extended Home Leave to find Resident Engineer, (b) (6), and Resident Engineer in waiting, (b) (6), deep in the process of orientation and preparations to get (b) (6) settled into his new job. On December 13th both (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed on TDY, first to Accra for the inspection of the new broadcast location for the subsidiary station there, then later to Morocco for familiarization of that contracted operation. Both gentlemen returned to post on December 20th. (b) (6) quickly departed Kuwait the same day on annual leave to be with his family for Christmas, and (b) (6) began the monumental task of cleaning out his office and packing out his house in preparation for his retirement.

On December 30th the Station had a send-off party lunch for (b) (6) and his family. It was both a somber and festive occasion as we said goodbye to a man deeply respected and admired by the entire staff. (b) (6) has been at the Kuwait IBB Station since July of 2008. He has been responsible for a great deal of this Station's success in expanding both the scale of local broadcasting operations and managing an extensive and growing array of IBB subsidiary FM broadcasting outlets in both Africa and the Middle East. We all wish (b) (6) a long and happy retirement.

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

Mr. (b) (6), Philippines Station IT Supervisor, visited the CNMI from 30 November through December 20. While there, (b) (6) and others met with IT&E representatives to explore options for communications redundancy for the Tinian site. The current configuration has all communications links sent via Microwave from the Saipan site. We are hopeful IT&E can propose a workable link directly from their Tinian Infrastructure located in San Jose Village, via another Microwave Link that would involve a beam path which transverses the Tinian airport.

Mr. (b) (6) kept busy during his visit to the Station. (b) (6) installed new Cisco router equipment, replacing much older Netgear units that were no longer supportable. Also during his visit, Larry made upgrades to both sites' servers and to the Cisco Vo/IP phone system.

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, visited the CNMI sites on Dec. 15 to 22 to conduct the second site visitation conference for prospective bidders. The incumbent contractor was the only attendee at the conference on 16 December. Mr. (b) (6) met with Station staff and completed other administrative duties while in the CNMI.

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

On the 11th, the Station had an early Christmas gift-giving for participants in our Food for the Elderly civic action program. Participants, who are the most elderly residents from the five barangays surrounding the Station, received a stipend of groceries, fruits, towels, beddings and several donations of clothing from the staff.

The Station held its annual holiday party at Tinang on December 10. Different from our usual events, this year we held a Sportsfest where the staff was able to play fun and challenging games. Among the events were a 2.5K foot race, a basketball shooting contest, and something dealing with sticks, hoops, and rolling string around your waste without your hands. Anyway, the event was open to our B&G Contractors and Local Guard Force as well, and we closed out the day with a wonderful meal shared between us. It was a good day.

Coincidentally, the Station Manager missed many of these events due to the visit of the US Consul General on that same day. (b) (6) was in the area supporting a community support and out-reach function for US Citizens living in the north of the Philippines, and she took the opportunity to visit the site for the first time. Other visitors included Police Senior Inspector (b) (6). The Philippine National Police Provincial Commander of Tarlac paid us a courtesy call on the 4th, along with PO3 Paumbog, PO3 San Jose, and Police Inspector (b) (6).

Training on the Smith Safety Driving System was conducted on the 14th and 15th for two LES and thirteen ISS drivers in two batches.

After 20 years of slow degradation, the Facilities Warehouse finally received a new coat of paint. This storage area was so busy and jam-packed with project materials, finding a window with which to paint was almost impossible.

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

The new RSO paid the Station a visit during the week of December 14th. She conducted a site security assessment and counter-intelligence training for all direct hires. She also met with the STP Minister of Defense concerning the STP's idea of posting of soldiers at the Station compound. The Minister was thanked for his offer, but it was politely declined due to the minimum threat level.

Riggers continued the rebuild of antenna #2 screen, replacing horizontal screen wires. The implementation of a new operational memo at 1030 UTC limits our maintenance time significantly. Riggers also resolved a VSWR problem on antenna #11 this month.

Rigger/painters completed corrosion control and painting on tower #01 and moved on to tower #13.

B&G painters completed corrosion removal, priming and painting of the entire Transmitter/Admin Building. Next, they began to conduct maintenance and corrosion control on the genset radiators and mounting hardware.

HVAC techs discovered and repaired a water line break when testing our backup well supply.

B&G began replacing security fencing support poles on the southern perimeter.

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

December was a relatively quiet month at the Station, with the Station Manager and most of the staff rushing to finish off their use or lose leave. A skeletal staff remained in operation throughout the holiday season.

Station Manager held yet another one of his Staff Town Hall Meetings for all staff on December 8, 2015. The Manager conveyed his disappointment in not receiving M&R funding for earmarked projects. Station Storekeeper (b) (6) received his 10 Service Award at the Mission Winter Awards Ceremony on December. Station Chauffeurs (b) (6) received Safe Driving Awards at the same ceremony.

During the month of December, Station antenna technicians repaired broken insulators of the 340H antenna feeder line. Also, the antenna crew continued to attend to corrosion removal and painting of tower J.

CAT generator 1 was repaired by the contractor after replacing the voltage regulator unit. Also, the CAT contractor carried out annual service of all three of the Station's backup generators. Also, the fire water pump and fire alarm system were tested as routine checks.

Station is continuing to operate unmanned shifts one and two on weekends and holidays. Staff experienced an automation issue during the unmanned shifts that involves the antenna matrix. When manual intervention to the matrix setting is made remotely, the matrix seems to hang up and switch into an indefinite state with no definite indication. At that point, a technician has to visit the Station to clear the fault manually. The SAS team is working to fix this.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December:

Operations were normal for the month of December. The retirement of (b) (6) was the big event of the month. The Station gave Richard a proper celebration of his 32 years of service to IBB. The party included Thai dancing as well as performances by staff and family members in honor of the 12 years he managed the Station in Thailand. A good time was had by all, and we send our best wishes to (b) (6) and his wife (b) (6) as they begin to enjoy the well-deserved rewards of retirement. (b) (6) will be missed, but he lives just down the road, so we are sure we will see him as time goes on.

On December 1st and 2nd, the Station Manager, accompanied by (b) (6), held meetings in Bangkok with Radio Thailand and the Thailand Public Relations Department (PRD). In attendance at the meetings were the Director of Radio Thailand, Mrs. (b) (6) as well the senior officer of the technical division. The meetings with PRD included Deputy Director (b) (6) and the Director of Engineering. IBB Thailand continues to enjoy very good relations with both Radio Thailand and PRD.

On December 4th, the Station Manager and (b) (6) accompanied the Embassy RSO for meetings in Udorn with the Udorn and Ban Dung Police Chiefs.

On December 14th, the Station Manager held meetings with the Ban Dung District officer, Mr. (b) (6), and with the Ban Dung Deputy Police Chief, Police (b) (6).

Quarterly Safety Committee meeting was held in Udorn on December 18th. (b) (6) from Bangkok/Ayutthaya came up to attend the meeting.

Last but not least, the Udorn Station hosted the visit of 60 people from the National Broadcasting Telecommunications Commission. This is a relatively new group that now serves as the equivalent to the FCC in the US.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approval by the Global Operations Director on December 1st. The Plan was then distributed to the Transmitting Station Managers for their information and to allow them to confirm their immediate funding requirements. The M&R Program Manager has made a funding allotment plan based on the anticipated level of FY 2016 funding, and is awaiting allocation of funding from CFO staff so funds can be transferred to the stations.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015, which BGG and the GSA Project Team agreed included work to be performed at no additional cost to the government. The CO went back and forth on her decision to direct the contractor to do the work at no additional cost. After further clarifications, the CO finally directed the contractor to do the Miranda work at no cost to the government. ARRIBA submitted a revised narrative and drawings per the CO's directive. The narrative and drawings were approved and ARRIBA was supposed to start work immediately. However, weeks passed and the remedial work finally started on January 27, 2016 after additional delays due to a medical emergency and the snow storm. The remedial Miranda work is now expected to be completed on February 3, 2016, with pre-commissioning scheduled for February 4, 2016. The period of performance of the contract ended on January 11, 2016, and GSA has not processed a modification to establish a new project schedule. ARRIBA's proposed schedule shows the 35 day migration beginning in March.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected, and therefore a likely date of transfer of the property is probably still well over a year away.

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The Station held its first quarter safety meeting on the 19th to discuss safety measures and ways to improve on promoting a safe working environment. All departments including the B&G were represented.

Civil/Structural Engineer, T/EOS/N - (b) (6) arrived on the 21st to assist with antenna maintenance activities. He is scheduled to leave early February.

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

Mr. (b) (6), SIS contractor, visited the Station and performed routine maintenance on the SIS downlink equipment.

The Internet connection between the Station and WDC was upgraded to 4 mbps.

Transmitter GB-8 was repaired during the month and is currently being evaluated prior to its being returned to a normal broadcast schedule.

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

Station has been working on an issue involving visas for our Moroccan technician contractors entering Tajikistan to provide technical support services at Orzu. In the past, the Embassy PAO has assisted our contractors with securing their visas in Tajikistan. They received visas for 4 weeks at the airport in Dushanbe, and then later had this visa extended for one year with the assistance of the PAO staff. However, it has become a burden for the PAO staff in Dushanbe, as they are having to spend far too many hours making multiple trips to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result, the PAO has requested a change to this process. We have been working on this issue with Teleradiocom, requesting their visa assistance. We hope that Teleradiocom and MFA can work together to resolve this.

The US Consulate in Frankfurt performed an emergency SMS cascade drill on 01/19/2016. So far, just the registered staff (b) (6), and (b) (6)—reported to management on receipt of SMS or calls by the RSO notification system.

Staff attended the mandatory briefing on the Merit Based Compensation plan at the Consulate on Jan. 20 and Jan. 22 for the current year-end evaluation and for the next cycle. The briefing was for LE staff and their supervisors.

At Biblis, preventive maintenance was done on all transmitters. BIB-01's cooling pump failed after only 4 weeks in service. BIB-02's step-start contactors were replaced due to failure during testing.

At Lampertheim, preventive maintenance was done on several transmitters. A water leakage on LAM-06 was fixed. On LAM-02 and LAM-04, broken coax cables from synthesizer output to broadband amplifier input were replaced. On LAM-07, old defective Servocard caused 2 broken water-cooled plungers. LAM 4 had a defective SSM-blower, which was repaired and replaced. By the end of the month, a crate of parts for the FM and MW transmitters in Djibouti was shipped.

The MW antenna painting project in Djibouti started on January 28, 2016. The water tank for cleaning of the antenna structure was delivered to the site and filled with water. After two days of preparation, the contractor started the work on the antenna. On January 29th, three engineers from Germany started the work on the extension of the video surveillance system. The pulling of the new fiber optic link cable between the transmitter building and guard house was more complicated than expected because the underground cable ducts were clogged with mud. Also at the Djibouti station, a local contractor has started the replacement of a defective water chiller for the Thales transmitter. Unfortunately, the work couldn't be completed due to a defective control unit on the new chiller.

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

Early into the month, shift technicians began observing slowing antenna azimuth changing times. Upon inspection, maintenance personnel observed a loud and unusual noise coming from inside the antenna's electro-hydraulic coupler and thruster. The antenna finally stopped working entirely by the 28th of January, forcing the network to off-load the entire KWT-5 schedule to other Stations. After consultations with the antenna manufacturer, Ampegon (formerly Thomson), they are dispatching a technical team to Kuwait in the second week of February to precisely diagnose the problem and prescribe a corrective solution.

Unlike last year, the desert is extraordinarily green and waves of bright yellow wild flowers are blooming everywhere. The numbers of desert camps around the outside of the Station are also higher than in previous years. Consequently, on January 17th we had the first unwanted incursion of the notorious Truffle Hunters cutting through our perimeter fences in the southern section. And with growing conditions so good this year, I'm sure this won't be the only incident this season.

On January 7th, a security team visited the Station to check on the condition of our Delta Barriers and recommended some physical security improvements, including adding additional concrete road barriers on the entrance drive just in front of the main gate. Station LES personnel also attended a mandatory "Conflict Management" seminar on January 12th at the Embassy.

This month, Station personnel provided technical support for the VOA FM 24/7 transmitter at Hargeisa, Somalia.

Newly hired technical staff continues on-the-job training in operation and maintenance of the Continental 419F SW transmitters and operation of the Automation System.

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

We are enjoying fairer weather here in the Marianas, and so dry season activities are in full swing. Contractor staff has been rearranging and inventorying Station supplies. Upon completion of these activities, both sites will update their respective SIP's databases. As we proceed with these activities, assembly and eventual disposal of various waste will occur.

Tinian site has been busy continuing with antenna maintenance cited as needed in their Antenna Assessment Report. The week of 25-29 January, contractor staff completed a thorough inspection, cleaning, and corrosion abatement of the Standby Generator Switchgear. This work on the switchgear also included a comprehensive study of the Toshiba Vacuum Circuit Breakers and cells installation requirements. Assembled information from this study will be forwarded to Sheilla Salicrup for SOW development.

Saipan site has been taking advantage of the fairer weather by completing some antenna maintenance and grounds work around the site. Final plans have been developed to augment the perimeter path with various methods to prevent erosion and to allow safe travels while performing routine security checks.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January:

(b) (6), newly assigned Facilities Supervisor, arrived post on January 8. He spent most of this month checking in with the embassy, receiving his UAB, paying courtesy calls with senior embassy officials, and generally getting to know his staff.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), Radio Technicians, departed post on the 31st for a scheduled quarterly IT maintenance visit to the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station

After completing refurbishment efforts, the Station opened our campsite to a test group of campers who are acquaintances of the Station Manager. The site hosted approximately 20 campers from January 22 – 24, who enjoyed a temporary reprieve from the hustle and bustle of Manila. Mr. (b) (6) also led them on a short tour of the inner compound on the morning of the 24th. This first group served as a test case, and will help the Station develop a management and safety policy prior to reopening the site to the Boy Scouts and members of the U.S. Mission. The last time the site was used was in 1996.

The Station recently completed refurbishment of a 30-year-old concrete drainage canal that had slowly fallen apart due to heavy reoccurring rains over the years. Its failure would have made this particular stretch of antenna field road impassable, and disrupted the established flow of irrigation waters that feed this section of the Station's cultivated farmlands. The Station has redoubled efforts to prevent and repair erosion damage throughout the antenna fields.

A total of 112 attended the EEO orientation for B&G contract employees and security guards. It was conducted by Mr. (b) (6) of the US Embassy HR on the 13th in three batches.

Visitors from the Embassy this month included: Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) of RSO on the 14th; and Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) of Information Resources Management to check emergency two-way radio on the 27th. Fifty ECE students, two (2) coordinators and an instructor of St. Louis University, Baguio City also visited on the 27th for an educational tour.

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

Admin Management Supervisor (b) (6) was reinstated as Certifying Officer on Jan. 8th after a four-month lapse. RFMS/M administrators required a new FMS 210CO form to be completed and approved by Treasury department. Station wishes to thank (b) (6) for her able assistance.

On Jan. 15th, Station staff presented STTS LAN Administrator (b) (6) with his Gold Medal Award, recognizing his outstanding accomplishments in 2015.

Two representatives of American international oil company, Kosmos Energy, visited the Station on Jan. 19th. Kosmos Energy is considering the exploratory drilling of a test well in block 6 offshore concession of the Sao Tome exclusive economic zone.

Riggers continued the rebuild of antenna #2 screen, replacing horizontal screen wires. Riggers also replaced burned radiator clamps and bolts on antenna #15 this month.

Rigger/painters continued corrosion control and painting on tower #13.

B&G painters continued maintenance and corrosion control on the genset radiators #1 and #4, including mounting hardware. They also performed corrosion control and priming on the security grills of house #3.

B&G laid the first half of the new transmission line for SAO-B. The section between the inner compound security fence and the antenna was laid down, covered with sand and a warning tape before backfilling with dirt.

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

Keeping up with past tradition, Station employees hosted a party on January 4th, ushering in the New Year. Station Manager had a few encouraging words for the New Year.

Vacancy announcements for dispatcher and maintenance supervisor positions were advertised mission-wide as well as on the public news boards. A language test for the dispatcher position was conducted on January 14th and two candidates passed the exam.

A team from the Embassy's GSO office comprising (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Station on January 27th to conduct an inventory of items loaned to the local guard force officials.

A second team from the IPC Office of the embassy also visited the Station on the same day to carryout repairs and modifications to the existing repeater system they installed at the Station. The team was comprised of (b) (6), and (b) (6).

Officers from ECD Global – transport service provider visited the Station on January 28 to review the transport route and the area provided for vehicle parking.

The Monthly petty cash verification was conducted by the admin. management specialist on January 31, assisted by the financial assistant (b) (6). No discrepancies were noted.

During the month of January, Station's antenna technicians repaired broken insulators of the 356H antenna feeder line. They also completed repairs and routine maintenance of RF and matrix switches, arc

detectors and tower beacon lights of all towers. All facilities staff contributed for cleaning and rearranging stocks at the warehouse 1 and 2. Contractor serviced Station's distilled water plant, and during the service found one heater element with an overheated connection, which they replaced.

This month the majority of outages are related to remote control errors in connection with the Marconi transmitters. The Marconi transmitters' tuning is currently based on a new algorithm, which makes remote operation more reliable; however, the down side is that the BBA trips regularly due to an overload. Initial software modifications have improved, but not totally remedied, the situation. Further attempts will be made to resolve the issue through software changes; failing that, Station technicians have worked out a hardware modification to resolve the issue.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December:

Operations for the month of January were normal. The big event of the month was the visit of Ambassador Glyn T. Davies to our Udorn site on January 13th. The Ambassador was very impressed with the facility. During his visit, he presented several awards to Station staff.

On January 27th, Station Manager (b) (6), accompanied by Transmitter Plant Supervisor (b) (6) and Management Secretary (b) (6), attended a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss extension of the agreement to operate the IBB medium wave at Rasom. The meeting went well and we expect that the agreement will be extended for another 20 year period. The following day we met with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission of Thailand to brief them on our intension to extend the Rasom agreement. This meeting also went very well and the Commission did not see any problem with the request to renew the agreement for another 20 year period.

Both the Udorn and Rasom sites are in the process of inspecting and replacing, as necessary, all fire extinguishers. The project to replace the air conditioning ductwork at Rasom has been completed and there is a noticeable improvement in the system.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approval by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager

(PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015, which BBG and the GSA Project Team agreed included work to be performed at no additional cost to the government. The Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports for review and approval. After review, several critical items were not tested and the reports were rejected. We decided to move forward with the pre- final inspection, which was performed on February 22rd & 23th. There are plenty of items on the punch list. We went over the items on site with the contractor and forwarded the official punch list on February 25. ARRIBA's rep mentioned that they'll need at least a week to complete the work. The 35 day transition date will most likely slip from the previous scheduled March 4th date. We are expecting to receive a new date from GSA soon.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected, and therefore a likely date of transfer of the property is probably still well over a year away. **(No change)**

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

Civil/Structural Engineer, T/EOS, (b) (6), departed post for Washington on the 7th. (b) (6) and the Station Manager paid a visit to Apache Manufacturing in South Africa to check the build status of the air filtration units. The units will be ready for delivery by mid-April.

The Station was paid a visit by (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Germany Transmitting Station on the 16th. The purpose of their visit was to perform maintenance on the Station's VoIP system and access the overall health of the local area network. They departed on the 29th.

On the 18th, the Station Manager travelled to US Embassy-Gaborone to attend a Congressional delegation (CODEL) meeting. The CODEL was chaired by Senator Flake. The CODEL was interested in IBB's target areas and the program content being broadcast.

On the 21st, BBG Director of Contracts, Mrs. (b) (6), arrived in Johannesburg to meet with the Station Manager. They both met with the owner of Apache Manufacturing System in Johannesburg regarding building of the air filtration units for the Station. A visit was also made to the VOA Marketing office by (b) (6).

On the 23rd, the Station Manager and Mrs. (b) (6) attended the Country Team Meeting at US Embassy-Gaborone. (b) (6) was introduced to the DCM, Management officer, Political officer and other section/agency heads.

On the 23rd, the Station Manager and (b) (6) travelled to IBB Botswana. During her visit to the Station, (b) (6) "randomly" examined Station purchase orders and questioned management on how the Station handles purchase requests, service contracts and leases. She also conducted training to all FSNs and Contractors regarding authorized supervision, market research and unauthorized commitments. (b) (6) departed post on the 27th. Excellent visit!!

On the 23rd, the Station hosted the Botswana Medical Aid company to give quarterly health/wellness and screening sessions to the FSNs.

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

Transmitter GB-5 was removed from service during the month to begin replacement of the 2nd IPA tuning network and associated mechanical drive assemblies with new components. The replacement

includes modifications to the original design to improve the long term reliability of the unit. The normal scheduled programming was transferred to other on-site resources.

Transmitter GB-8 evaluation and performance test continue to be made prior to its return to scheduled programming.

A meeting was held with representatives from the Strike Group to review drawings for the antenna switcher and data logger upgrade project.

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

On the 12th, the Station was visited by an RSO/Frankfurt team (5 persons) for a security site survey. Ruediger and Ludwig led the tour of the two sites. Their questions primarily involved the fire extinguisher contract and the smoke alarm/fire alarm system. They went through the Station's first-aid and safe-haven areas and checked on the defibrillator at Lampertheim and Biblis. The group was very impressed with IBB Germany's role in the network, and was especially interested in seeing such a high-tech environment equipped with satellite remote control devices and computer systems.

(b) (6) made a one-day visit to Lampertheim to discuss the approved M&R projects with staff. He was also provided a demonstration by (b) (6) of how he and his team assembled the Drone Camera / squad copters - and their function.

A team of three staff members visited the Djibouti MW site in February. One of the team members provided oversight of the antenna tower painting, retensioning and greasing project. The other two team members performed the transmitter repair and maintenance, and installed/extended the site's security surveillance system. The team accomplished quite a lot during the trip, including repair of the voltage regulator, check-out of the condition of transmitter and equipment, and commissioning of a new chiller that had been installed by a local company.

Two staff members went to Botswana to complete reconfiguration of Cisco Switches and Routers. They also installed a new connection between the VoIP and data network, implemented and configured new Cisco PoE Switches in VoIP, and performed a reconfiguration of the Call Manager, as requested by Botswana.

The Station completed a project to automate the dummy load at Biblis. The control system of the dummy load had suffered frequently from damage and malfunctions. Because purchasing a new dummy load would have been more expensive, the Station decided to instead replace the unit's control system with a new state-of-the-art automated control system that communicates with the Station Automation System. During the replacement process, other improvements were implemented as well to save time on calibration of the unit and to improve the reliability and speed of measurements.

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

On February 8th, engineers from Ampegon arrived to diagnose problems with the rotatable SW antenna (A5). The problem was traced to a failed clutch assembly. After initiating a temporary repair solution, the antenna was restored to service on the 10th. While trouble-shooting and correcting the problem, the Ampegon engineers provided extensive training in the care and maintenance of the antenna system. The engineers also recommend procurement of a new clutch and a spare, as this assembly is a common failure point in these types of antennas.

During February, Station personnel provided technical support to the following VOA 24/7 FM subsidiary transmitting sites: Ndjamenana in Chad, Ramallah in Palestine, Mosul in Iraq and Nairobi in Kenya.

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

The Marianas Station has been enjoying fairer, yet quite breezy weather in February. The dryer weather has allowed progress to be made on various painting and construction projects. The O&M contractors have kept our procurement staff busy with acquisition of materials needed for these projects.

Station personnel have been conducting the annual PIP's inventory during February. This will wrap up early in March.

South Pacific Environmental, Rome Research's hazardous waste disposal contractor, was at both sites in February and has removed all of the accumulated hazardous waste in accordance with the terms of the O&M contract.

Tinian facilities staff was busy preparing the two 30,000 gallon above ground diesel fuel storage tanks for recoating. This will finish the project initiated to refurbish the entire fuel distribution system.

Saipan facilities staff has started construction of the security walkway along the north and eastern fencing. Due to past acts of vandalism and theft of copper grounding wire, additional security lighting and cameras will also be added in this area.

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

Station Management and some of the Station's LES transmitter staff attended the Annual High Frequency Broadcasters' Meeting on February 19th, with the Philippine Broadcasting System (PBS) as country host. It was held at the Philippine Information Agency Auditorium of PBS at Diliman, Quezon City.

On February 24, 3 FSO's and 47 LES from Tinang and Poro went to the Brizo Beach Resort in Morong, Bataan for the Station's Team Building event. It was a day spent with fun-filled activities that promoted camaraderie and teamwork among the participants.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), Radio Technicians, were in Sri Lanka from January 31st to February 7th for the scheduled Quarterly IT visit. They laid out and terminated cables and raceways, installed a switch at the new Drivers' Office to accommodate the four workstations, and joined them to the Broadcasting network. One defective IP phone was replaced and troubleshooting was performed on the Station's digital sender.

The Station's quarterly building fire and safety inspection was completed on February 17th. Very minor discrepancies were noted and reported accordingly for corrective action.

Visitors for the month included: Forty-three 43 students, 2 coordinators and 2 instructors of Bulacan State University on the 2nd for an educational tour; Messrs. (b) (6) & (b) (6) on the 9th; 30 students, 4 faculty members and 2 tour guides from University of the East on the 10th for an educational tour; 39 students and 5 faculty members of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila on the 18th for an educational tour.

On the 17th, the Station held an awards ceremony for retiring employee Mr. (b) (6). He was given a plaque of appreciation for his 33 years of service to the U.S. Government. He will be retiring effective COB March 4, 2016.

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

On February 18th, the mayor's office of Agua Grande District picked up forty-one (41) dead lead-acid batteries for proper disposal as part of their new hazardous waste disposal program. Credit belongs to the Station's Safety Committee for recognizing the hazard of improper battery disposal and finding a solution. There was no fee involved with the disposal.

The 2nd quarterly safety meeting of FY2016 was held on February 18th.

February 24th Ambassador Akuetteh arrived Sao Tome and visited the Station to address our staff that same afternoon. She was accompanied to STP by the DATT, OSC, RSO and Political Officer. They departed Friday, February 26th.

Riggers continued the rebuild of antenna #2's screen, so far replacing 60 of 87 horizontal screen wires. Riggers also repaired antenna #01, RF switch #09. They corrected the loss of 24VDC reverse power by replacing bad micro switches on both CW and CCW sides.

Rigger/painters continued corrosion control and painting on tower #13.

B&G painters completed maintenance and corrosion control on the genset radiators #1 and #4, including mounting hardware. Generator #3 radiator is currently disassembled for cleaning and corrosion control. They also completed corrosion control, priming and painting on the security grills of house #2.

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

Sri Lanka celebrated its 68th Independence Day from colonial rule on February 4th with much pomp and pageant.

The Station experienced yet another power outage when a power surge on Sunday, February 21st tripped the main incoming breaker at the substation, and the Station's generators were unable to come online due to a synchronizer problem. Commercial power was restored to the Station on February 22nd. UTE, the generator service contractor, was onsite on February 23rd to assess the damage and implement corrective measures.

The Station's EEO liaison, (b) (6), and LGF liaison, (b) (6), attended an EEO briefing session with trainer, Erica Hall on February 29th at Embassy Colombo.

(b) (6), Security Specialist from BBG/IBB's Physical Security Division, visited the Station on February 3rd to February 6th.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), both IT Technicians from the Philippines Transmitting Station, visited the Station from February 1st to February 5th for routine IT Maintenance.

RSO (b) (6) made his first visit to the Station on February 25th, accompanied by (b) (6) from the Embassy RSO office. Embassy Colombo's HR Assistant, (b) (6), also

visited the Station on the same day to complete the LGF EPF registration process (employee retirement documentation process).

Officials from ECD Global, the staff transport provider, visited the Station on February 11th for a discussion with Station management on the quality of service provided by them.

Staff members attended the 'Grammar for Business' training session conducted by the British Council on February 2nd and 3rd at the Station.

On February 10th, two candidates competing for the position of Dispatcher attended driving tests and interviews at the Station conducted by Admin. Mgt. Specialist, the Asst Facilities Plant Supervisor and HR Assistant – (b) (6). Subsequently, it was decided that none of the candidates were suitable for the position due to lack of experience.

During the month of February, Station antenna technicians repaired the 356H antenna's RF switches. Routine maintenance of switch matrix and 310L/H field switches was also completed during the month.

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

Operations were normal for the month of February. The big event of the month was Mr. (b) (6) submission and defense of his thesis on "the automation broadcast radio by using audio mute clock" at Khon Kaen University. The thesis was based on his design utilized on an affiliate FM station in Mongolia. We are very proud of his outstanding achievement.

Discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the renewal of the agreement to broadcast from the Rasom medium wave facility continues. We have asked for a 20 year renewal period and are awaiting their official response.

The process of testing and replacing fire extinguishers at the Rasom facility is continuing. The 20 year old chairs have been replaced in the main lobby at Rasom, and the procurement process has been started to refurbish the rest rooms.

M&R projects to replace Station lights with LED lights in Udon, as well as the project to repair the fence at Rasom, have been started, with the procurement process for both projects initiated. We expect to obligate all M&R funds this FY.

FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Several A/E task orders supporting these projects have been submitted to CON for award.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested on September 21, 2015. Significant issues were encountered during the testing. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015, which BGG and the GSA Project Team agreed included work to be performed at no additional cost to the government. The Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports for review and approval. After review, several critical items were not tested and the reports were rejected. We decided to move forward with the pre- final inspection, which was performed on February 22rd & 23th. There are plenty of items on the punch list, and as of the end of March, many items are still not completed. Training on the Miranda system did finally start on March 28th. The 35 day transition was tentatively scheduled to start on April 8th, but, based on the lack ARRIBA's progress on achieving substantial completion, it appears that the start-date will slip again.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected, and therefore a likely date of transfer of the property is probably still well over a year away. **(No change)**

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

The rain (Pula) has decided to grace the Botswana dry barren bush landscape with its presence. Along with the rain come delays in the painting of the shortwave towers. However, the painting contractor has made significant progress. Extra paint had to be procured to ensure there will be enough to complete the job.

During the second week of March, US Ambassador **(b) (6)** paid the Station a visit. The purpose of his visit was to speak to the FSNs and answer any question they may have had.

Mr. **(b) (6)** from Apache Manufacturing supplied paperwork regarding a sensor that can be used to turn on and off the two air filtration units he is building for the station. The sensors would turn the units on when the ambient air contains more than 5ppm of S02. After one hour, if the S02 levels have dropped below the 5ppm threshold, then the units would turn off.

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

Transmitter GB-5 was returned to service on March 18th. Initial tests indicate that the modification was performing as planned and the transmitter has resumed normal programming.

Transmitter GB-8 has been returned to limited duty pending repair of a few frequency dependent anomalies.

The new antenna control system PLC upgrade project began during the month. Removal of the old and installation of the new system commenced on March 22nd. The Station remained on the air during the changeover with only a few short broadcast interruptions as the contractor exchanged wiring harnesses from the old to the new system. At this time, operation is normal and evaluation is continuing.

The data logger upgrade project also began during the month with several interface issues being resolved.

Visitors for the month included **(b) (6)**, **(b) (6)** and **(b) (6)**, who work in the broadcast industry.

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

Two staff members travelled to Thailand to work with Udorn technicians to support the local LAN and the Cisco Call Manager (CCM), cleaning up the local network for Data and Voice, and installing additional features like a paging system for the CCM. They investigated the performance of the networks in Udorn and Bangkok.

Another two staff members went to Djibouti to inspect and perform the acceptance of the antenna towers painting project (including the greasing and retensioning of the guys) at RTD.

The defective antenna RL 2 could not be repaired as scheduled at the end of March due to bad weather. Therefore, we have rescheduled Ampegon's repair to a later date in April.

Station has looked into budgetary savings, and one of the issues considered was the continued requirement for the Facilities Supervisor's position. Due to the retirement of the incumbent in June of this year, agreement was reached after discussions with (b) (6) and HQ that the Station will not pursue a new hiring. Instead, it was agreed that the duties and responsibilities would be shared between Biblis and Lampertheim staff.

Three vehicles were disposed through a sealed bid sale in March.

We had an orientation visit by FMC/Berlin staff who handles IBB accounts. (b) (6) made a one-day visit on March 4th, and touring both the Biblis and Lampertheim sites. He met with admin staff and discussed: routine information flow between FMC and IBB; obligation recording; and reconciliation of accounts, etc.

The antenna painting project at the MW station in Djibouti was finished this month. All three towers were painted and the guy wires were greased and re-tensioned. For the final inspections and re-tensioning, two riggers from Thailand and two German engineers were on site. To assist with the visual inspection of the work, a drone sent from Germany was used.

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

Station operations some outage hours that resulted from a failure of the four-bay FM antenna system at Liberation Tower in Downtown Kuwait City that occurred on March 5th. An attempt to complete repairs on March 6th failed and, because the authorities at Liberation Tower would not permit our riggers to work at night, the repairs were not completed until March 7th. The Station was able to maintain Radio Sawa service from our backup FM transmitter at Mutlaa Ridge for most of the repair time, except for 5.72 hours that we lost on the 6th when MEW commercial power failed at the backup FM site. *"If it can happen, it will, and at the worst possible time."* – Murphy's Law

On March 2nd, three (3) forty-foot containers, packed with a new and never used self-supporting tower system, were picked up from our Station's surplus storage lot and sent on their way to the Ukraine, where the tower will be assembled and put to use in support of the BBG mission.

On March 31st, Embassy Security staff conducted a gas attack drill at the Station. Expiring 'hood' protection masks were donned by LES and American staff in the simulated exercise. Afterwards, replacement masks were issued.

On Monday March 28th, the Station held a farewell lunch for Driver/Maintenance man, (b) (6), who officially retired from USG service on March 29th. (b) (6) but was granted a one-year extension from the LES mandatory retirement age limit. (b) (6) is a very humble and dependable person who was well liked and has done so much for the Station during his years of service.

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

Station personnel continue to await announcement of the next Operations and Maintenance Contract. While this has been a source of stress for much of the staff, the many tasks currently underway during the dry season have helped keep this off everyone's minds.

The Tinian buildings and grounds crew completed the repainting of the two 30,000 gallon above-ground diesel storage fuel tanks. This, as well as other painting and corrosion abatement efforts, kept them busy in March. The antenna riggers addressed many action items from the antenna assessment survey, which will remain in full swing while the weather holds out and/or until completed.

The Saipan staff has also been busy with painting and corrosion abatement. The building and grounds staff continued work on the pathway improvements to the north and eastern perimeter fence area. This project, once completed, will correct erosion issues associated with these areas, and will provide for safer security patrols.

(b) (6), Station Manager, visited the CNMI Station, arriving on 29 March and departing on 3 April. While in the Marianas, Mr. (b) (6) had hoped to attend Momentum training by WDC staff, but conflicting schedules postponed this training until a later date.

Station staff completed the annual PIP's inventory on 29 March.

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

School year 2015-2016 students of the IBB day care program in the five barangays surrounding the Station were honored and given certificates and awards for their achievements during Recognition Days held this month. Keynote speakers were previous recipients of this day care program who are now excelling in their chosen fields. In their speeches they, and officials of each barangay, expressed appreciation for IBB's support and their hope that it will continue.

The Station accommodated educational tours for a total of 143 students, faculty members and tour coordinators from four different local Universities on the 1st, 3rd, 10th and the 15th.

On March 17-18, Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) of US Embassy's IM Unit worked on their two-way radio system.

During the month, rewiring at the Master Control Room consoles #1 thru #12 were completed. Wiring of patch bay/jackfield for uniform impedance matching when using the ATS-2 POP measuring equipment was also reconfigured.

An annual planned controlled burning was scheduled and initiated to safeguard the antenna field and compound structures from unexpected grass fires that would possibly spark during this summer season. Fire breaks were created around the power plant, the transportable compound, and substation compound. Existing roads and knee walls also helped regulate the grass fire.

On March 18th, Station riggers conducted a weekly routine antenna tower inspection. The crew spotted a damaged stabilizer and seven broken porcelain spreader insulators along antenna curtain tower 020 - 023. This task required extensive man hours to accomplish due to the complicated nature of the repairs. To

avoid disrupting incoming programs, alternate antennas were utilized while the repairs were being made. Restoration was completed in 5 days.

The medical examinations process for LES incidental drivers, which started in November 2015, reached its final stage. Results were received after being checked by the Medical Unit. The results, in general, were favorable for the LES incidental drivers, as well as for the Station.

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

On March 23rd, EMAE power company General Director (b) (6) visited the Station to express his thanks for loaning them a Caterpillar 3516 water pump rebuild kit. The rebuild kit allowed them to get their generator back on line with minimal down time. Unfortunately, there is no excess generation capacity for the island.

Riggers continued the rebuild of antenna #2 screen, so far replacing 71 of 87 horizontal screen wires. Riggers also repaired antenna #09 screen that collapsed during a rain squall on March 18th.

Rigger/painters continued corrosion control and painting of tower #13.

B&G painters completed maintenance and corrosion control on the genset radiator #5, and are working on the #3 radiator, including mounting hardware. Generator #3 radiator is currently disassembled for cleaning and corrosion control. They also completed corrosion control, priming and painting on the security grills of house #1.

B&G poured a new concrete base for the perimeter security light in the SW corner of the inner compound. The same squall that damaged antenna #9's screen downed the lamppost when mounting bolts pulled out of the base due to high winds.

HVAC team replaced the AVR on the standby generator to repair the frequency drop when a load is applied. They also replaced numerous security lamp bulbs throughout the site.

Power Plant team has generator #3 under investigation for excessive fuel usage and evidence that fuel is getting into the lube oil.

On the last day of the month during the cutting of grass along the frontage road, a lawn mower launched a rock through the window of a parked vehicle and shattered the window on the opposite side also. Luckily, the vehicle was unoccupied and no injuries were involved. Station is replacing the windows for the owner.

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

The Station experienced an influx of mosquitos during the latter part of February and early part of March. Station staff conducted investigations, only to find out that the drainage system at the vehicle wash area had clogged, creating a breeding area for the mosquitos. On March 4th, the facilities staff, together with the Station nurse, unclogged the drain and sprayed the wash area with mosquito repellent.

American Embassy Colombo, in collaboration with the Office of Civil Rights (S/OCR), hosted training on "Equal Employment Opportunity/Harassment Awareness, at the Embassy from March 1 - 3, 2016. Sessions for IBB and the Local Guard Force were conducted separately on March 2nd.

Staff members attended the placement test for English language conducted by the British Council at the Station on March 23rd. The test is to aid in establishing the proficiency level for all staff members who require language development. Thereafter, suitable classes will be assigned based on the individual results.

ARSO (b) (6) and Guard Force Commander (b) (6) visited the Station on March 10th. While at the Station, the ARSO conducted a duck and cover alarm test, and all staff participated successfully.

Station conducted a bid sale of miscellaneous items on March 23rd. Bids were opened on March 28th by the Cashier and Transmitter Plant Supervisor, who did not take part in the bidding. The Station received Rs. 231,300.00, which is around \$1,595.00, from the sale of these items. The funds were deposited with the Embassy Cashier on April 4th.

After the finalization of placement test results for the positions of Dispatcher and Maintenance Supervisor, interviews were held at IBB on March 31st. The successful and only candidate for the position of Dispatcher was none other than Station's long-time Chauffeur, (b) (6). (b) (6) has been with IBB since January 2001 and has served several managers.

Due to the prevailing dry weather conditions in Sri Lankan, the local electricity board experienced difficulty in meeting its demand as the majority of the country's hydro power plants were offline. Due to this situation, scheduled power cuts were announced by the Government, and the Station operated successfully from backup generators.

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

On March 7-10, FSN Radio Technicians, Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6), traveled to Kuala Lumpur to perform TVRO system preventive and corrective maintenance at the Public Affairs office, US Embassy Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

On March 10-19, Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6) and Antenna Supervisor, (b) (6) travelled to Djibouti to perform inspections of the tower painting and guy wire greasing. Re-tensioning of antenna towers was not attempted, as there were structural issues that prevented this work from being done at the time.

On March 14-18, FSNs TX Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6) and Radio Technician, Mr. (b) (6), traveled to Rangoon, Burma to perform TVRO system preventive and corrective maintenance at the Public Affairs office, US Embassy and the Embassy Compound in Rangoon.

Philippines Facility Supervisor, (b) (6), traveled to the Bangkok and Udorn sites during March 12-26. The visit was to provide assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in studio production capabilities and provide training to the FSN staff on the Station LAN and phone system.

Germany FSN Automation Specialist and Plant Supervisor, (b) (6), and FSN Automation Specialist and LAN Administrator, (b) (6), traveled to the Thailand Transmitting Station on March 12-25 to reconfigure the local network and Call Manager Systems at the Udorn and Rasom sites. The Cisco phone system is now fully functional.

The Station Manager, along with (b) (6) and (b) (6), attended a meeting with the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 21st to discuss Mr. Kurtic's findings and the renewal of the agreement for the Bangkok medium wave.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The 3 containers from Kuwait were delivered to Ukraine. This was the final delivery for the Ukraine shipment.
- A new Property Custodian Form was created to provide for electronic signature.
- A total of 58 shipments was completed this month.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for April include the following: CON issued A/E Task Orders for a site condition survey and an HVAC study at Sao Tome; CON posted an FBO solicitation notice for a guy wire replacement project on Tinian; and CON issued an A/E Task Order for the Toshiba breaker replacement project for Tinian.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There are plenty of items on the punch list; however ARRIBA continues to delay substantial completion of Phase 1 & 1A every week. ARRIBA's owner just informed GSA that he is retiring and trying to sell the company. If he can't find a buyer, the company will close. GSA asked ARRIBA to submit a plan for completion of the punch list items. GSA is planning to send a letter of intent to terminate by default if Phase 1 & 1A are not completed by a determined date.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected, and therefore a likely date of transfer of the property is probably still well over a year away. **(No change)**

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

The U.S. Embassy's Consular Officer, Mrs. (b) (6), visited Selebi-Phikwe as part of the Embassy's outreach efforts that are focused on getting a better understanding of life in Botswana and, if possible, finding places where U.S. Embassy Botswana can target its assistance programs. During her visit, the Consular Officer visited the BCL Mine management, Selebi-Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU), the Mayor and the Police Commander. She was accompanied by the Station Manager and the Admin Specialist.

Station Manager and the Admin Specialist attended the myService software training held at Embassy Gaborone on the 7th and the 12th, respectively.

On the 13th, US Embassy Health Unit personnel, (b) (6) and Nurse (b) (6), visited the Station to conduct CPR and First Aid training for IBB staff.

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

Transmitter GB-7 was temporarily removed from service to repair a defective external heat exchanger. The scheduled programs were transferred to other in-house resources.

The data logger upgrade project continues to progress. All hardware I/O function issues with Station equipment have been resolved.

The antenna switch bay PLC system was completed with the addition of a state-of-the-art touch screen control panel interface.

Visitors for the month included Ron Tripp from the NCC and (b) (6) and (b) (6), who are affiliated with Ears To Our World and swling.com. Ms. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) were given a tour of our facility and the modernized control room in response to questions from readers of their shortwave blog and listeners of our broadcasts.

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

The required paper work—Letters of Invitation for visa applications—were prepared to bring Teleradiocom's technicians for transmitters training in Lampertheim. This training is scheduled for June.

We were successful in getting our applications for the FSI course "Management Oversight of Construction Safety and Occupational Health Program" approved for those who will be taking over the tasks of facilities supervisor. The course will be offered at the American Consulate/Frankfurt and four FSNs (2 each from Biblis and Lampertheim) have been enrolled for the course, which will be taken place in June.

All staff who were not on leave/TDY have received the newly implemented State Department's ID card "One Badge" to access the Consulate building. Some received a One Badge with log-on on DOS's Open Net network.

It has been determined that the repairs to Antenna RL-2 at Biblis, which broke on the last day of February, cannot be done in house. Quotes for the repairs have been requested, although the work has been delayed by bad weather conditions. The requested 200-ton crane can only access the property after a 14-day period without rain. Repairs will be done as soon as possible

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

Shortwave curtain Antenna A3 was taken out of service for scheduled maintenance/repair, April 11th thru 23rd. The maintenance was required to replace and tension one of the Hallyard 7/8" diameter cables that support the antenna, which was damaged during the chain link failure and subsequent antenna collapse in October 2015.

We took advantage of the mild temperatures to power-wash all the satellite dishes this month.

Two new employees joined the IBB Kuwait Team this month: (b) (6) fills the Storekeeper position that has been vacant for some time; and (b) (6) will be the Chauffeur/Warehouse Assistant at the Station. They both came onboard on April 17th.

Newly hired technical staff continues on-the-job training in operation and maintenance of the Continental 419F SW transmitters, and operation of the Automation System.

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

Corrosion abatement efforts on Tinian continue on counter-weight cables for Antennas 305L and 270L.

Two antenna riggers were dispatched from Tinian to Saipan for three days to assist in the replacement of two pulley assemblies for Antenna 270.

B&G personnel on Saipan continue working on the perimeter road along the east fence line.

RRC's Mr. (b) (6) was TDY to Hawaii/CONUS (Tower Training Courses).

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

(b) (6) visited the CNMI Station from April 20 to May 4 to oversee operations during the extended absence of the resident engineer.

On the 27th, the Station hosted a representational dinner for 44 local Military and Police officials. The event took place at the Cafe La Maja Rica, Tarlac, and was supported by 10 IBB employees.

The Station set up a booth to support the US Mission's annual Take Your Children to Work Day. In addition to our usual Power Point presentation, the Station set up low power transmitter and receiver demonstration kits, giving the children a hands-on (and real-time) radio experience.

Visitors for the month included: Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) from US Embassy Manila on the 1st for maintenance of hard line doors' maintenance and change of safes' combos; twenty-eight (28) students and 2 advisers of Central Philippines University (CPU) of Iloilo City toured the Plant on the 7th; twenty-three (23) students, five (5) faculty and two (2) tour guides from Fullbright College, Palawan on educational tour on the 12th; and retired IBB Tinang LES FARagones and ACalub, who visited the plant on the 19th.

Letters were sent to prospective electric suppliers for a new power contract/agreement. So far, at least five suppliers have indicated interest, and proposals are expected to be received soon. The Philippines Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is encouraging us to contract with a commercial power provider, or be subjected to higher spot market prices. ERC notification of whether or not we can establish a contract is due May 26.

The Embassy Medical Unit orchestrated a Medical Fair and Blood Drive at the Station on April 21-22. A total of twenty-two (22) LES and contract employees donated blood during the Blood Drive on the 21st, which was conducted by AUF Medical Center personnel. On the 22nd, representatives from the Medical Unit, Bioessence, Massage Vibes, Vita Plus, Ideal vision, PQ HealthShield Inc. and Mercury Drug provided free health services to approximately 150 Station employees and contract staff.

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

Deutsche Welle programming loss was a major issue during the month. Intermittent feed related problems resulted in 8.53 lost hours of DW broadcast and dropped overall availability to 99.65%. Losses were initially attributed to rain fade due to its intermittent nature and corresponding cloud cover. Ultimately, the dish was realigned, LNB changed out and cable replaced with low loss coax. Carrier strength increased from 60% to 74% indication at the receiver and was steady for the final week of the month.

Our 500-watt FM transmitter failed on April 16th. The 200 watt legacy version was installed in its place, and the defective unit was brought to the Station for repair. Station wishes to thank (b) (6) and (b) (6) for their support providing schematics for the failed unit.

Riggers stayed extremely busy during the month as numerous rainstorms blew through:

- April 7th - replaced sixteen fingers and two ring contacts on RF switch 2 for antenna #07.
- April 11th - corrected high VSWR on antenna #06 by splicing a broken radiator and replacing burned clamps and bolts on the second dipole.
- April 16th - called in to service antenna #11. A broken feed line clamp caused two lines to cross and resulted in high VSWR.
- April 25th - one side of antenna #5 screen collapsed during a rain squall. Set up boson chair system to secure antenna screen and remove excessive slack. Set up new vertical wires and tensioning back on antenna screen.
- April 30th arcing with high VSWR on antenna # 05. Replaced burned wire support clamp and bolts on the first dipole on equalizer plate.

Riggers also continued the rebuilding of antenna #2 screen side in their spare time, completing 78 of 87 horizontal screen wires and started to replace the last vertical line.

The Power Plant team has generator #3 under investigation for excessive fuel usage and evidence that fuel is getting into the lube oil. Engine #5's excessively black exhaust is also being looked into.

HVAC technicians worked TAB chiller temperature regulation problems and replaced a water flow sensor and return water temperature sensor. They also worked with B&G painters to perform corrosion control maintenance and painting on chiller louvered panels and frame. The team also installed back a security light pole that blew down on the south perimeter fence.

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

On April 4th, Station facilities staff rescued a porcupine trapped in an animal trap set up by villagers on the perimeter fence of the IBB Station. The animal was severely injured on the neck and rear area. As the Station Medical Centre was not equipped to treat animals, the Station Nurse coordinated the transport of the animal to the nearest Government Veterinary Surgeon's office in Chilaw for much needed treatment. The Station did its bit in lending a helping hand to protect endangered species and wild life in Sri Lanka.

The British Council's English Language Training for the beginners group commenced on April 20, 2016. The second session was held on April 28 and is to continue further.

The LGF (local guard force) training officer from Embassy Colombo visited the Station on April 7 to conduct a 'Road Run' for the LGF staff.

Station organized a bid sale of miscellaneous scrap material from Warehouse II on April 7th; seven Prospective Bidders submitted bids for the items, with the highest bid received from Regina Stores for Rs. 515,000.00 (approximately \$3,542.44). A bid sale of used ATV equipment was also held at the Station on April 27th & 28th; several sealed bids were received.

Long term Antenna Technicians (b) (6) and (b) (6) were placed on administrative leave effective April 28, 2016 pending an official investigation.

Many staff members attended the 'Sinhala and Tamil New Year' fellowship organized by the FSN Association of Embassy Colombo on April 22.

Station Antenna Technicians carried out routine maintenance of antenna field switches, spraying weed killer chemicals around transformer pads and certain selected areas. They also carried out termite control treatment due to presence of termite activity in the T&A area.

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

Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) attended Rope Access training in Bangkok, April 18th – 22nd. It is planned to have two more of the rigging staff attend this training in May.

The Embassy RSO office conducted a Station security review and held a Counter Intelligence briefing for the staff at Udon on April 19th.

The Station was pleased to learn of the assignment of (b) (6) as Deputy Manager Udon. We look forward to his arrival in July.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- FY 2016 Fleet Management Plan & Budget Narrative was submitted and approved by CFO. The plan and narrative was posted to FAST the week of May 20th.
- OCB has completed their inventory, and the Inventory reports have been provided to the OIG to close out Recommendations from OIG audit of OCB.
- 20 Pallets of Excise Equipment was removed from OCB by Unicor.
- Kick-off meeting was held with CFO auditors to discuss this year's audit and the auditors' visits to Kuwait, Greenville and our warehouse. The updating of property policy and procedures was also discussed at the meeting.
- We are working on the transfer to Lithuania of the 200KW transmitter in Germany that was received as excess from AFN.
- Logistics support to the stations and throughout the Agency totaled 57 shipments this month.
- Special shipment of repair parts was made for RFE.
- HHE: We are currently working on 2 moves for EAP Division, 3 moves for Overseas Correspondents under Central News Division, and 4 moves for TSI.
- Received an oversized water trailer for Sao Tome that will require some dismantling to make it fit in a container.
- Dismantled and disposed of the 6.1 Meter Dish at OCB.
- Delivered AFSAT and LANET systems to the NCC.
- Prepared requisitions for capacitors for Greenville and tubes for Botswana and Greenville.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for April include the following: a task order was awarded for the Toshiba breaker replacement for Tinian; and a task order proposal was reviewed for an HVAC Analysis for Greenville. .

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority

(DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23.

There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff has been working diligently. Equipment is already installed in the consoles, in addition to two new Cisco systems in the new equipment rack area. Work is continuing, with cabling expected to be completed the week of June 6. GSA has not provided an update regarding ARRIBA's possible closing; however, they indicated that it's ARRIBA's intent to complete the project. We have started discussing contract requirements for Phase 2 & 3 in an effort to have GSA enforce project submissions per specifications. Submittals, such as, installation and coordination plans, product data and demolition sequences, are required a couple of weeks before the contractor's mobilization.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2016

DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected, and therefore a likely date of transfer of the property is probably still well over a year away. **(No change)**

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

On the 9th through the 20th, the Station was visited by the Automation Team from Germany—Project Engineering/Automation Supervisor, (b) (6), and Automation Specialist/Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6). The purpose of their visit was to work on the PLC/SAS and help resolve any pending transmitter issues.

The Station Manager, (b) (6), departed Post on the 13th to attend a Contracting Course in Washington DC. (b) (6) will also be on Annual Leave. He is expected to arrive post on June 29th.

On the 24th, the Station held an on-site Health Wellness Presentation given by the Botswana Medical Aid Society, a Health Insurance Company contracted by the Embassy for LES medical insurance. The topic discussed was “Caring for the Elderly”.

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

The data logger upgrade project is now complete. Punch list items are being addressed as they are found.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) with WLNG radio, and (b) (6) and (b) (6) with Electronic Products Design, Inc.

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

Station staff was called for duty to respond Lampertheim/Biblis community’s fire-drill during May.

The workforce/janitorial services contract’s last option year has been exercised and extended through April 30, 2017.

Our Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6), will be retiring in June; as part of our operating cost saving plan, his position will not be backfilled—we will make do with resources we already have. Staff at both Biblis and Lampertheim are willing to share the duties of the Facilities Supervisor position, and have already been trained. We have also considered investing some funds in class-room and on-line training courses for junior technical staff, to enhance their skills and gain better knowledge in this field. One transmitter tech/mechanic attended such a course at RSC/Frankfurt Consulate in May.

On-the-job training to Station Manager’s Secretary to pick up some administrative and finance duties has also been provided.

It's also planned to have network training to technical staff in the near future, which will be done by Senior FSNs at Biblis.

On May 12th, a Fire brigade exercise took place at Lampertheim. It included test of fire well No. 1 east and No. 2 west by the local Fire Brigade. The 19 m underground fire wells were flushed by a professional high power diesel engine fire well pump. The Fire well No. 1 will be cleaned and maintained in June by Fire brigade experts.

On May 24th, an expert on the electrical power provider company EWR conducted a safety inspection of Lampertheim's 20 KV/ 400V power switchgear. All systems were found in good condition.

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

(b) (6), our incoming Station Manager, made a visit to the facility on May 9th to meet the staff and the retiring Station Manager, (b) (6).

Embassy Health Unit staff (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Station to replace the Safe Haven Kit and to inspect the emergency systems on site. They have recommended that we install an eyewash fountain in the Mechanical shop, which currently does not have one.

RSO staff was on site on May 12th for follow-up training on the control system in the Safe Haven. The RSO office recommends that we look into replacing some of the old video recording system.

On the 26th, the Station held a farewell retirement lunch for our beloved Station Manager (b) (6), who has been at the helm of this Station for the last 10 years, and has served the IBB for over 30 years, serving our mission in Belize, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Sao Tome, Dubai and Kuwait. It was a bitter sweet moment for the staff here in Kuwait to say goodbye to the person who brought this station from a temporary 100kw MW station to one of the shining jewels in the IBB broadcasting network. Gaines departed Kuwait on May 29th. We wish him all the best as he continues his passion for film making at his retirement home in West Virginia.

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

The dry season is in full swing. However, with this year's near drought conditions, fires are a daily concern. Tinian has battled several grassland fires this month. These fires have circled approximately 80% of the site with approximate penetration burning 30% within the fenced boundary. On May 23, there were fires on the outside of the fence during the eve and mid watches. On May 24, the fires restarted and entered the site in Phase II. All Building & Grounds staff and several technicians were involved in subduing the fires when they entered the site. The fire department responded in the afternoon and back-burned areas to help control the spread of the fires. RRC personnel were actively involved in extinguishing the fire with the portable water container and fire tampers. Both the site and local fire trucks were inoperative. Fires flared up outside the site again on May 28, causing several trees to burn and then fall across the road leading to the site; one tree fell and hit the power line causing a power failure.

Thankfully, due to the diligence of the O&M Contract staff in keeping our firebreaks cleared, and with the assistance of the local Tinian Fire Fighters, there has been neither a reportable safety issue nor damage to Station assets. Both sites remain ever watchful for fire.

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

A representation event for officials from the surrounding barangays was held on the 19th. This year's event was a sportsfest, where participants joined together for food, discussions, and a bit of fun. Camaraderie was rekindled among the participants as they joined the games and dined together. The barangay officials availed of the chance to express their appreciation for IBB's support to the welfare of the residents through its civic action programs.

A station awards ceremony was held on May 26 to recognize the various accomplishments of our staff. In total, 20 LES from all units received certificates for group and/or individual achievements.

The annual Take Your Family to Work Day was held on May 27. A total of 56 members representing 15 families, participated in the day's events. The children enjoyed the coloring session and video, while the older participants followed the station tour. The groups later joined together for some food and fun games. The event was concluded by the children joining their parents at their respective work stations.

There were many visitors to Tinang this month. On May 10th, 45 students and 2 faculty members from Far Eastern University, Manila visited the station for their educational tour. On May 11th, 36 students and 2 faculty members from Far Eastern University, Manila visited the station for their educational tour. On May 19th, 35 barangay officials from 5 surrounding barangays arrived at the station for the annual representational event.

On May 16-20, (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to the Sri Lanka station to work on the CUCM Paging System and for the Quarterly IT Visit. Tasks performed for the CUCM paging included installing and configuring the Informacast Virtual machine and integrating it with the Call Manager. Orientation was conducted to Station personnel on the use of the new system. Other issues that were addressed include a VPN client reinstallation on Operator's laptop, network drive access concerns, no dial tone problem on one analog phone and disabling transmission report printing on their new Digital sender.

Retail competition and open access in the electric power industry is near full implementation by the Philippine government. This requires IBB to enter into a contract with a retail electricity supplier by December 26, 2016. On May 24, IBB met with GN Power, one of the retail electricity suppliers. GN Power presented their company profile and capabilities and promised IBB to send their offer soon. Search for other retail electricity suppliers are ongoing.

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

The 500-watt FM transmitter that failed on April 16th was repaired and reinstalled in place on May 26th. The old 200-watt backup unit was brought back to the station.

On May 5th, while working wire replacements on antenna #02 screen, the clip that retains the sheave bearing for the suspender wires on the swingstage snapped during elevated work. As a result of the clip's failure, the reel and pulley system were binding under heavy tension. The swingstage would not move either up or down. Our rigger team managed to bring the equipment down the following day and we are attempting to purchase the required repair parts.

Riggers came in on Saturday, May 21st to repair a fault on antenna #05 RF switch #10. They replaced a reversing contactor fuse on the I.O. card.

On May 23rd, riggers set up the boson system to correct arcing on antenna #06 curtain. Throughout the week they replaced two vertical radiators and spliced three horizontal radiator assemblies.

On May 25th, Ambassador (b) (6) visited the Station and briefly addressed the staff.

May 31st, rigger painters completed tower #13 preventive maintenance with a final coat of international orange and white on alternate sections.

Our Power plant team has generator #3 under investigation for excessive fuel usage and evidence that fuel is getting into the lube oil. They found and replaced two injectors with mechanical failures on engine #5 to eliminate excessively black exhaust reported last month.

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

Station received a bountiful harvest of mangoes this season after it had taken care of the trees in dire need of attention. The trees were pruned and sprayed upon to protect them from insect attack. The harvest was distributed throughout the US Mission.

The annual First Aid training for the staff was held on the 11th, 13th, 25th and 26th of the month. All staff attended the training in groups.

ARSO (b) (6) made his routine visit to the station on May 12th. While at the Station, he took time to refresh the MCR & Station Phone Operator on how to handle a telephonic bomb threat if received at the Station. Subsequently, the visiting ARSO conducted a bomb threat drill involving the Station personnel and the LGF.

The Station organized a bid sale of use AVT equipment on May 6th. The total received from this sale was Rs.1,294,370.00. Vehicle spares housed at the IBB Warehouse were also auctioned on May 13. The Station received Rs.411, 000.00 on the sale of these spares.

Staff successfully connected the transmitter chiller operation to the SAS. This will enable the chillers to be reset remotely in the event of a power failure. They are now working on connecting the standby generators.

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

Operations were normal for the month with one exception. Antenna 03L suffered a catastrophic failure due to a failed crimp connection on the cable from the spreader bar to the counter weight wire rope. When the crimp failed, the right side of the curtain antenna dropped, causing the bracket on the spreader bar to break off and the right side of the curtain to collapse to the ground. The Station is in the process of repairing the spreader bar and procuring 2 new wire ropes. The repair is expected to take several weeks; however, there is an alternate antenna which will be used to substitute 03L.

On May 11-13, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from RSOI visited station to perform security revalidation for IBB staff. They also conducted a security briefing for LES at the Station on May 12, 2016.

On May 10-11, 80 students from Rajamongkala Technology University Khonkaen Campus toured the Station.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Finalized BBG FY 2016 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, Fleet Management Plan, and Climate Change Adaptation Plan and uploaded to MAX on June 16 for OMB review.
- Completed 57 shipments in the month of June, including shipment of promotional items for the Marketing Division to Phnom Penh, Johannesburg and Kampala, Uganda
- PIPS Property System was transferred to a new server and users were updated with the new ODBC connection.
- HHE is busy with the summer season; we have 25 open moves for 13 employees.
- (b) (6) visited Kuwait to provide training in property management and supply operations.
- Visited the warehouse with auditors on June 21. Many items were discussed, but not specific concerns were raised during the visit.
- Met with ATP, Inc. (logistics contractor) to discuss upcoming property survey as part of Sri Lanka closure activities.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for June include the following: proposals received for CNMI guy wire replacement, Phase 1 site visit for Tinian Toshiba breaker replacement was completed, task orders for Cyprus and CNMI antenna tower inspections awarded, task order for Tinang fire alarm system replacement awarded; and a task order proposal was awarded for an HVAC Analysis for Greenville and the site investigation was completed on June 28.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the

electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. **The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. Clean up activities are continuing. Phase 2 & 3 work won't start until the installation and protection plans are approved. The first submission of these plans was rejected. A meeting to discuss the review comments and construction activities has been scheduled for July 7. GSA indicated they will let the contractor mobilize, in an effort for the contractor to start looking at the site conditions and submit request for information (RFI) if necessary. GSA has not provided an update regarding ARRIBA's closing, however they indicated that it's ARRIBA's intent to complete the project.**

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2016

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

On the 10th through the 17th, the Station was visited by T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer, Mr. (b) (6). The purpose of the visit was to fabricate and test a steel cage to be used by rigging personnel to grease the shortwave antenna guy wires. The cage, after being built, was fitted with 900lbs of weight while attached to a guy wire. No problems were noted during testing.

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

Visitors for the month included members of the Sampson County Amateur Radio Services club (SCARS), who were onsite for a tour of our facility.

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

Several staff members attended training this month: Transmitter Technicians (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended FSI PA 585, Mgt. Oversight of Construction, Safety & Occupational Safety, provided by FSI at the Consulate in Frankfurt. (b) (6) also attended the RP401, Foreign Service National Leadership training. Contracting Officer (b) (6) graduated Management Concept's Training "Advanced Simplified Acquisition Procedures. And Mr. (b) (6) completed COR Level 1 continuous training.

Two engineers from Lampertheim performed preventive maintenance on the MW and SW transmitters at the Orzu site in Tajikistan. They continued the upgrades to the Continental SW transmitter, installing a new touch screen operated human machine interface, which simplifies the operation of the transmitter. Furthermore, they helped the Teleradiocom staff get rid of a long standing problem with the broadband amplifier. During the inspection of the MW transmitter, a defective expansion vessel in the cooling circuit was detected. A replacement was ordered and will be shipped to site soon.

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

Ramadan began on June 6th. The Station's work schedules shifted to accommodate special Ramadan leave of 2 hours each day, in accordance with the LES staffing plan.

Antenna Related Activities: In October of 2015, the Station had a chainlink failure of the Attachment Chain that holds up antenna A3. This one link failure brought the whole A3 down. It then took us a month to rebuild the A3 antenna, with spare parts that we had in stock. In order to prevent another antenna failure of this type, it was decided to replace all the 16 chainlink Attachment Chains that supports the four Shortwave curtain antennas. This work was completed on June 15, 2016.

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

On June 15, the station received notice that SN-Five, our primary cargo shipper between islands, would suspend this service on 2 July. This is resultant to the expiration of Contract Workers (CW-1) visas for the majority of their staff. The CW-1 application threshold for 2016 was reached early in May; these

thresholds are imposed by USCIS. The Station is hoping that the visas for RRC's staff on Tinian and Saipan will be restored soon after October, which is the start of the new CW-1 application season.

On June 20 through 23, (b) (6) of URS and (b) (6) and (b) (6) of Potomac Testing were at the Tinian Station to determine the retrofit materials and supplies needed to replace the contactors and associated cells for Tinian Power House switch gear. Planned maintenance outages allowed this team to safely pre-fit, and take the necessary panel and buss configuration measurements for the pending installation.

Mr. (b) (6) met with representatives from Mobil Gas June 23 on Tinian and again on June 24 on Saipan, to show the new gasoline and diesel tanks projected for installation. Mobil was determining the delivery requirements for the future DLA fuel contract. Mr. (b) (6) also met with representatives from Marianas Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) on June 24 concerning the future installation of these tanks. During the visit, it was determined that a single Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC) could be developed that covers both the Saipan and the Tinian stations.

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

After completing an assignment of more than 3.5 years, the Station bid farewell to Plant Supervisor, (b) (6). He departed post on June 30, for his onward assignment as Deputy Manager Thailand. The Station also bid farewell to (b) (6), Administrative Clerk, who resigned effective June 10.

The Station's efforts to establish a new commercial power contract prior to the Energy Regulatory Commission's December 26, 2016 deadline is in full swing. Several companies either submitted proposals in writing or did so via presentation in person, as they vie for a new 2-year contract. We will continue receiving these proposals through the end of July, at which point we will coalesce them for a comparative review at the Station. Our goal is to finalize a selection prior to the end of September, so that a new commercial power contract may be approved and issued by the end of October, well in advance of the December 26 deadline. It is noted that the positive results of this solicitation are in stark contrast to the original commercial contract deadline two years back, where none of the 18 or so available commercial power contractors were able/willing to provide us a proposal.

(b) (6), Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6), Supervisory Telecoms Engineer, and (b) (6), Computer Management Specialist attended the PLDT Enterprise Voice and IT Management Seminar on June 1-2 in Baguio City, Philippines. (b) (6) and (b) (6), traveled to PORO Station on June 22-23 for the preventive maintenance of Hoffman boxes.

Visitors for the month included the following: on June 8, 29 students and 2 faculty members from the University of San Carlos, Cebu City visited the station for their educational tour; and on June 9, 40 students and 2 faculty members from Far Eastern University, Manila visited the station for their educational tour.

As part of our Station wellness program, the facilities unit has led an effort to give the Station a bit of a makeover. The unit has begun planting small trees and flowering shrubs throughout the inner compound in an effort to spruce up the bare appearance and otherwise improve upon the aesthetic look presented to the staff and our station visitors as they enter the compound.

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

On June 7th, the Station hosted a site tour by 23 ROTC members visiting Sao Tome on a goodwill visit.

Riggers and Motor Pool technicians repaired the antenna maintenance swingstage that was damaged last month, and put it back into service at end of the month.

The power plant team has generator #3 under investigation for excessive fuel usage and evidence that fuel is getting into the lube oil. They completed valve lash adjustments on engines #1, 2 and 3.

B&G cleared perimeter roads of flammable debris to minimize fire danger during this dry season. They also worked on houses #1 and 2 replacing and painting rotted eaves, eliminating termites and painting inside and out.

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

On June 2nd, the Station Manager held a townhall for all staff, at which he announced in a somber tone that Congress had approved the closure of the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station. This was dreaded news; however, the staff had expected to hear it for the past two years. He indicated that some of the staff would be placed on admin leave for some time until a clearer picture of the closure was mapped out. On Monday June 6, 15 staff members were sent back home and placed on admin leave. Only a skeleton staff remain at the Station to carry out important tasks.

GOSL Minister of National Policies and Economic Development, (b) (6) and State Secretary (b) (6) together with the Divisional Secretary (b) (6), the Village Headman, and the Divisional Secretariat's Colonization Officer and the Management Officer (b) (6) from the embassy Colombo visited the station on Sunday, June 12 for a discussion on the handover of the IBB property to the GOSL.

Personnel from Suriyaarachchi Associates visited the Station on June 15, 2016 to review the antenna field and offer a quote for the dismantling of the antennas.

(b) (6) from IBB Washington arrived at the station on June 23 to assist the Station Manager in preparation for the closure of the station.

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

The highlight of the month was the arrival of Deputy Manager (b) (6), his wife (b) (6), and (b) (6) in Thailand on June 30. (b) (6) and his family will complete their check-in with the Embassy the first week of July.

Visitors to Udorn for the month included 65 students from the Ban Pue Vocational School on the 22nd, and 35 students from the Udon Polytechnic College on the 24th.

The hospital in Ban Dung conducted CPR training for Udorn staff on June 29th through July 1st. Work continues on installing the LED lighting at both transmitter plants. The fence repair project at the Rasom/Bangkok plant was completed, and work continues on refurbishing the bathrooms there.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Disposal of the Delano Transmitting Station: The Station has been reported as excess real property to the GSA Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. Per GSA, the feasibility study on the expansion of the Delano airport is underway. This study is required before a final decision on the

transfer of the property can be made. In a February 2016 update, GSA informed us that the FAA feasibility study is taking much longer than expected; a likely date of transfer of the property is still no available.

This month we completed the California Environmental Reports for Delano and loaded them into CERS, the California Environmental Reporting System. The reports include: hazardous material inventory, training plans, contingency plans and hazmat site plan.

- All tube and capacitor contracts had their option year exercised, except for Thales, which requires a new contract.
- ATP, logistics contractor, was in Sri Lanka this week completing the survey for shipments as part of Sri Lanka closure activities.
- Completed 40 shipments in the month of July, including shipment of three FM systems to Ghana, Mongolia and Sierra Leone.
- HHE continues to be busy with the summer season; we have 25 open moves for 13 employees.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for July include the following: proposals reviewed for CNMI guy wire replacement; Phase 2 site visit for Tinian Toshiba breaker replacement scheduled for August 22nd; Cyprus tower inspection schedule confirmed with Radio Sawa from September 19-23; site visit for Tinian fire alarm system replacement scheduled for August 15th; and Hanson started Sao Tome Condition Site Survey on July 28.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of

September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. **A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12. Several request for information (RFI) have been submitted and responses have been sent back to the contractor. On site, the installation of temporary partitions to protect the equipment from dust has been completed as well as capping of electrical wiring. GSA has approved a fire alarm system outage starting on Monday, August 1st until September. At the project progress meeting on July 28, ARRIBA indicated that the company won't be closing until they complete all the projects that they are currently working on.**

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2016

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

Station Manager (b) (6) arrived at Post on the 3rd from attending Contracting courses in Washington DC and taking Annual Leave.

On the 24th, the Station Manager travelled to Gaborone to meet with (b) (6) (Physical – OMS/SPH). They met with the RSO at Embassy Gaborone.

On the 22th, the Station bid farewell to (b) (6), who retired after having served 31 years in the U.S. Government as a Supplies Supervisor. (b) (6) will be remembered by various departed Station Managers as a hardworking, dedicated USG employee with honesty and integrity. Her footprints will remain and she will be missed by all at the Botswana Transmitting Station.

On the 26th, the Station was visited by (b) (6) (Physical - OMS/SPH). (b) (6) toured the station and met with IBB staff.

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

Training on the new web-based time and attendance program was given to the staff by (b) (6) and (b) (6) from BBG.

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

Most of the staff was on summer vacation until mid-July. After their return, we had a staff meeting to discuss some open issues, M&R projects and B&G work activities that need to be taken over by Biblis and Lampertheim staff as a result of the retirement of the Facility Supervisor. The year-end spending and surpluses, which will be returned to WDC, were also discussed.

The installation of two new 100 Mbit/s Internet connection lines has been delayed by the Station's Telecom provider. We have been pushing hard to get them to install earlier than September. We are in constant contact with the Telekom service management team and will keep checking with them.

RTD staff responsible for our FMs at Djibouti City and Arta are not adequately maintaining our monitoring equipment. For some time we have tried to impress upon them the importance of keeping those links online, but it appears that there is no interest, as they try to hide transmitter outages from being noticed. Therefore, we are working on moving our equipment to the IBB location (Medium Wave transmitter site at PK12) which can physically receive both FM signals from City and Arta and monitor them from there. During a planned trip to Djibouti in September/October, Station staff will address this issue as well.

Concerning our Medium Wave in Cyprus, an order for dedicated Internet access via microwave has been placed with a local provider, after negotiations for a real good service/cost relationship. Station will get this connection installed at the beginning of August. Once on line, we can get rid of the current MERN uplink at Cyprus, which is part of the IOR satellite transponder re-structuring by IBB headquarters.

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

July has been a busy month with lots of activities. The State Audit team consisting of 2 auditors from Kearney & Company and (b) (6) from BBG were on site for 3 days, July 10th - 12th. They gave us a short briefing before their departure, and were concerned about the LES staff work schedule of 48 hours each week. The Station is in consultation with the Embassy regarding this issue, and hopes to resolve it before the beginning of the Fiscal Year.

We also were fortunate to have the incoming Station Manager, (b) (6) visit with us during the audit week. Before the auditors could identify deficiencies in our processes, he identified them and rectified them immediately. Most of these changes dealt with Management Control issues, to ensure that we adhere to the checks and balances required by Station directives.

During the month the IBB Security Team arrived on site to repair the Fiber Optic Perimeter Security System, and take stock of the overall health of our Security System. Their recommendation was to replace all the cameras and recording systems that are just marginally operational. In addition, we need to replace the aging bomb detection machine, which currently gives many false positive results.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from ABM Electrical Power Systems came on site on the 17th to begin testing the Switch Gear, power metering, relay switches and UPS systems. They discovered the SIS Room UPS batteries, which provides power to the Cisco Video equipment racks, to be dead. We are in the process of procuring replacement batteries locally. We await the team's final report.

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

Welcome rains have returned, so our concern over brush fires has been relieved. Station staff has been busy servicing our mowing equipment ahead of their increased use expected during the rainy season.

In conjunction with the SIPs Inventory now underway, a general spring cleaning has been accomplished. As such, supply rooms and warehouses are being re-arranged to allow for better accountability and management of these supplies. We also are expecting some disposal of items not needed.

On Tinian, refurbishment of the frame on our 15-ton AC unit, which provides cooling to the southeast end of our Transmitter and Administration Building, saved the need to purchase a replacement unit. Additionally, the staff installed two new replacement water pumps and fittings/couplings on the site's main water distribution system.

The Saipan B&G crew, with some help from Tinian's (b) (6), completed the replacement of the hydraulic hoses for their Bucket Truck. Saipan technicians completed Hi-pot testing of a new Thales CQK-650 PA Tube and prepared it for shipment to Tinian.

On a rainy July 4th on Tinian, a mouse found its way into the 11 KV Switchgear causing a commercial power outage. With the rain, we are guessing that the mouse was the only one who saw fireworks on the 4th. The Station lost only 6 minutes of broadcast time due to this power outage.

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

The Station met with two more retail electric suppliers on July 7th and 29th for their proposals for a new commercial power contract as mandated by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

NSTS Supervisor (b) (6) and Electronics Technician (b) (6) traveled to Poro on July 18th to work with the Embassy on the installation of a new E&E Net VHF base station. They proceeded to Baguio City on July 20th to work on a VOA affiliate's technical problems.

On July 13th, (b) (6) of US Embassy ARSO with (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the Tinang site to inspect the Station's local guard force. His team then continued on to Poro to inspect that site's guard posts on the 14th.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) travelled to Sri Lanka this month to provide transmitter plant equipment disposal and salvage support.

Two Tinang LES Riggers travelled to Poro to do a thorough antenna tower inspection and to demonstrate and train ISS contract workers the procedure on how to replace dead-ends. Findings show that various parts of the antenna towers and transmission line dead end are starting to corrode and some were already heavily corroded. About 120 preformed dead-end are scheduled to be replaced.

Electrical staff took the initiative to check the interior of two diesel fuel tanks at the Power Plant compound. Presence of dirt particles and sludge were noted at the bottom of the tank. The unit proceeded with the overall cleaning of the tank, fuel filters were replaced and fuel extracted was filtered by ALGAE-X fuel conditioner equipment to remove impurities before returning diesel fuel back to the day tanks.

A briefing by PhilCare Account Managers for the new Health Insurance Coverage was held at the Embassy on July 13th. Station LES were able to participate in this meeting via videoconference.

GSA Smart Buy and Ethics Online Trainings were completed by Procurement Assistants (b) (6) and (b) (6).

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

Ambassador (b) (6) arrived on the 6th to present letters of recognition to our Local Guard Force members who apprehended a determined intruder at the Station on March 23, 2016.

On the 7th, the Station hosted a site tour by 14 British tourists visiting Sao Tome on vacation.

On the 8th, Station's B&G team prepared Congressional Palace courtyard for the evening hosting by Ambassador (b) (6) of the U.S. Independence Day celebration in Sao Tome.

DCM (b) (6) and team arrived in Sao Tome on July 15th to participate in local election monitoring. Admin Management Specialist (b) (6) and TX Plant Secretary (b) (6) volunteered to provide participate as critical local guides with the monitoring teams, ensuring successful coverage of all polling places.

On July 17th, local elections ushered in new President Evaristo Carvalho, uniting the Prime Minister, National Assembly and President under the same political party, ADI.

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

The month saw the gradual dismantling of the transmitters and brought memories of another era when the transmitters had been installed during the construction phase of the Station way back in 1994/1995.

Starting on the 11th, a stream of technicians arrived from the sister stations in Thailand, Tinang and Kuwait to assist with dismantling and salvaging of transmitters and antenna parts. The Thailand technicians striped down two Solid State Modulators in the Marconi transmitters, together with all related control equipment as well as other transmitter hardware parts to be redeployed to their station. The Kuwait and Tinang technicians dismantled all Continental transmitters and other parts, packing them with care for reinstallation in Kuwait. These visitors included: (b) (6), and (b) (6) from Thailand; (b) (6) and (b) (6) from Kuwait; and (b) (6), and (b) (6) from the Philippines.

(b) (6) and his team from AllTrnansPack Inc. (ATP) visited the Station during the period of July 24th - 28th to conduct a site survey for packing and shipping of the transmitters and other items to be salvaged.

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

On the 8th, Deputy Manager Mr. (b) (6) and his family, arrived in Udon Thani after check-in with the US Embassy.

On the 29th, the Station hosted a representational event for the Executive Director of Radio Thailand. Also in attendance were 17 representatives from Radio Thailand. The delegation toured Udon's facilities and enjoyed a coffee reception after lunch. The entire event was very productive and informative.

The Station's Quarterly Safety Meeting was held on the 14th.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 60 shipments in the month of August, including shipment of protective vests and helmets to Jakarta, Islamabad, and Iraq. Also, continue supporting FM systems deployment and maintenance with shipments of parts to Bujumbura, Ghana, and Haiti.
- Continued providing VOA support by preparing a shipment for the new VOA reporting center in Mombasa, Kenya.
- ATP, logistics contractor, completed the survey for shipments as part of Sri Lanka closure activities. ATP submitted a detailed report including cost estimates and pictures for the equipment that will be shipped to different locations.
- A new SharePoint site has been created for all property-related documents to be digitally stored. In addition to eliminating hardcopy filing requirements, that Site allows the different offices to look up any documents at any time.
- HHE continues to be busy with the summer season; we have 28 open moves.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for this fiscal year, including carry-over and recoveries, is \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for August include the following: contract award of CNMI guy wire replacement; completion of Tinian Toshiba breaker replacement; completion of electrical

maintenance work in Kuwait; completion of site investigation for Tinang's fire alarm system replacement; and review and finalization of report for Greenville's HVAC Analysis.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. **A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. Demolition of ceiling and floor has been completed. New work is in progress, including new walls, electrical raceways and wiring. The coordination drawings and air systems submittals were reviewed and rejected due to lack of coordination with a contract modification for the area. The project completion date is now November 1st. GSA indicated that the additional days added to the schedule are the result of changes in protocol for fire alarm outages and unforeseen conditions during demolition.**

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

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

On the 16th thru 29th, Station welcomed Mr. (b) (6) lson from the Global Networks Division. The purpose of (b) (6)'s visit was to replace the old Cat 5 cables with new Cat 6 cables, and to replace the old computing infrastructure with a new one. During his visit, (b) (6) also assisted the Station in replacing the 12 core fiber optic cable between the SW and MW sites with a 24 core cable. Fiber cables between the SW buildings were replaced as well.

Davia (PTY) Ltd HVAC began installation of the Air Filtration units. Ductwork and concrete pads are being installed.

Firetech Corporation was awarded the contract to install the new fire monitoring and alarm system. Technicians arrived on site to begin removing the old system

The Station Manager travelled to Embassy, Gaborone on the 19th to attend Country Team Meeting.

The Station Manager travelled to Gaborone on the 26th to attend the ILEA Charity Event.

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

During the month, PTI continued performing antenna maintenance and ABM Electrical Power Solutions began inspection and test of the station's electrical system.

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

It was a busy month both administratively and technically—procurement support was provided to WDC and other stations. Technical support was provided to other stations, and problem solving to affiliate stations.

The Frankfurt Consulate is transitioning to a new Post-wide Emergency Notification System, MIR3. This program gives us the capability to send important security related information simultaneously to multiple devices (cell phone, email, landline phone, etc.), and features “one-click” response options for accountability, thereby increasing our chances of reaching staff during an emergency. IBB staff have been registered to this DOS system. Starting September 1st, RSO will use MIR3 for emergency communications, and to assist in accounting for Chief of Mission staff when needed, along with the phone tree.

We have assisted with export declaration documents for the company Graf, who has been contracted by HQ to do the crating of transmitters and related equipment to be shipped from Sri Lanka to Kuwait. A crate with tools and material must be shipped from Munich to Iranawila, and then returned to Germany upon completion of the work. Paperwork is done and shipment will leave in the second week of September.

The German Telekom installed one of the two required fiber optic multiplexer Internet circuits in Lampertheim. The connection is stable, but Station team will continue to measure this circuit. Another

circuit will be installed in September. In addition, we will soon get the frequency license from the German Federal Network Agency for WLL connection.

FM monitoring support project is continuing. HQ's special funding allocated for this project and VSAT for 5 African countries has been expended. (b) (6) and (b) (6) have continued to work hard on this issue and are trying to get the equipment ordered, assembled; they hope to meet the deadline for implementation at the first 2 sites, Accra and Bamako, within this calendar year.

Curtain antenna RB2 at Biblis has been defective. Station technicians managed to repair antenna with a 300t crane. The repair has been difficult due to the fact that the area of the defect was not easily accessible. Working platform had to be lifted to a height of 100m and then lowered between dipoles and the antenna curtain. Before work had begun, it was determined that the curtain couldn't be lowered due to guy wires that go thru the reflector. (b) (6) and (b) (6) did an extraordinary job.

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

(b) (6), who retired in Jan. 2016, returned to Kuwait this month on a WAE assignment to fill in as acting Station Manager; this allowed (b) (6) to take a much-needed R&R trip to the U.S.

Station activities were more or less normal, except for the failure of a feeder cable from the south MEW substation. Station techs transferred our load to the second feeder, losing about 12 minutes on each of the affected transmitters. Later MEW technicians came to the site and located the failure point. Once the defective cable point was located, they uncovered the buried cable and repaired it and the next day, the feeder was placed back in service. Very little digging was required, as MEW techs pinpointed the failure point within a meter or so.

The buildings and grounds janitorial solicitation draft was reviewed and comments submitted back to CON for inclusion; and when the solicitation was published on Fed Biz Ops, that version was reviewed and further corrections submitted. Site visit for the prospective vendors is scheduled for September 8.

Visitors to the Station included the new ARSO on the 10th, and trainers for CPR from the Embassy Health Unit on the 16th.

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

Monsoon weather proved troublesome during the first half of August with southern winds causing a failure to a spreader bar on Tinian's antenna 295L, part of a dipole hanger assembly. After repairs were finalized, the remaining assemblies were inspected. The southern winds also caused some arcing on other antenna feedlines, requiring the repairs to the same.

Rome Research Corporation (RRC) completed the SIPs Inventory and is now checking the system to correct any small errors found. During this inventory, a thorough reorganization and "spring cleaning" has freed up some much needed space. Moving forward, many items cited as no longer needed to support current assets, have been vetted and set aside. These items, once documented, will be offered to other stations/activities prior to disposal.

(b) (6) of URS and (b) (6) and (b) (6) of Potomac Testing returned to the Tinian station on August 23 to complete the installation of the Emergency Generator switchgear contactors and cells. RRC staff provided support and assistance during the Planned Maintenance, which concluded on August 31. Follow-on testing was successful; however, Generator #3 tripped off line with a

winding temperature alarm. Troubleshooting and repairs to Genset #3 will proceed final Standby Power System analysis and fine-tuning, scheduled for September and October 2016.

(b) (6), Saipan Site Supervisor, was busy giving Tower Rescue and Safety training throughout the month. Ed began on Saipan on August 6th, and completed on Tinian August 31st.

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

Station held two representation events, the first being a dinner on the 26th at Poro, La Union for representatives of Philippine National Police and Air Force officials. The second was a luncheon on the 30th at Tinang for the local town mayors and barangay officials. We also held an awards ceremony for Station employees on the 30th.

(b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to CNMI on the 21st – 24th for station oversight and to attend the Toshiba HV installation kickoff meeting on Tinian.

There were many visitors this month. (b) (6) and (b) (6) of URS/AECOM were on site from the 15th to 17th to inspect our fire alarm systems in preparation for developing an SOW for the system replacement. Mr. (b) (6) from IBB, and (b) (6) and (b) (6) of PhilComSat, visited the site on the 23rd to review the Station's SIS and discuss planned system upgrades. Fifty Mechanical Engineering students, two faculty and one tour guide from Technological Institute of the Philippines, Quezon City on the 23rd; they were followed by another fifty (50) BSIT students, two Faculties and a tour guide from the University of Batangas, Batangas City on the 25th. On the 31st, four representatives of our B&G Contractor's head office (ISS) also visited the site to discuss general contract performance and items of mutual interest.

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

On the 3rd, Hanson engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) wrapped up a week of site surveillance and out-briefed our staff regarding their findings. By end of month, Facilities section, with B&G support, completed repairs to numerous areas identified in the out brief.

On the 12th, HVAC supervisor (b) (6) departed station for New Britain, CT and two days of air conditioning and refrigeration training by TPC Trainco. Testing for his EPA 608 certification follows on day 2. This will allow the Station to purchase Freon from CONUS.

On the 13th, the Station conducted an auction sale of 54 lots of obsolete items, scrap metals and other junk. Proceeds of sale totaled 101,671,000 Dobras or \$4685. Lot #51 was not paid for, so will remain for the next sale. Kudos to Warehouse Supervisor (b) (6) for organizing and documenting the lot items, and to Auctioneer (b) (6) for conducting the auction fairly and professionally.

Riggers completed the total screen rebuild on antenna #2, changing 87 horizontal and 9 vertical support lines. They have rigged the antenna side of #2 to perform repairs there. Rigger painters neared completion of corrosion control work and painting on tower #14.

HVAC worked on the TopKAT fuel dispenser installation and replaced RO#2 membrane housing.

B&G team scraped and painted all five rolling overhead doors at the Station. They also completed clearing a large section of overgrowth outside the western perimeter fence of the inner compound and made it ready for mowing by removing all rocks and filling divots.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station did not submit a Station Operation report for August. However, Station Manager (b) (6) is continuing to oversee activities relating to closure of the Station, including: dismantlement of transmitters and antenna parts for deployment at other IBB stations; and coordination with the Embassy on separation of the Station's Locally Employed Staff and on preparation of a dip note for termination of the bi-lateral agreement.

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

On the 4th, the Saraburi Municipality conducted Refresher Fire Training for Rasom Transmitter Plant staff.

On the 8th, the HRD (b) (6) r conducted First Aid and CPR Training for Rasom staff.

On the 18th, the Station welcomed 394 students and teachers from 3 local schools, the timing of which was appropriate because it was Thailand's National Science week. Station has provided snacks and drinks for the kids and teachers. The engagement between the staff and school personnel was beneficial to relations of the IBB station and the local community.

From the 14th to the 24th, (b) (6), TX Maintenance Supervisor, and (b) (6), TX Radio technician, traveled to Cambodia to install equipment radio equipment at the Steung Kheive radio station. While in Cambodia, they performed Preventive Maintenance at the Teung Kheive, Siem Reap, and Udor Meanchey radio stations

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 76 shipments in the month of September in support of the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency.
- Shipments made for TVRO support to MBN sites in Dubai, Beirut and Baghdad.
- Shipment made to support Marketing Office to Abuja and waiting on one for Johannesburg.
- Shipments made for TVRO support to Kinshasa, DROC; Lilongwe, Malawi; Maseru, Lesotho and Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Attended Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) training in preparation for FY 16 FAST reporting. FAST FY 16 reporting started on Oct 1st and its due on Dec 15th. A CIRFAX was sent to the stations for data collection of proposed acquisitions and disposals of vehicles for the year.
- ATP, logistics contractor, is currently in Sri Lanka packing and preparing shipments as part of Sri Lanka closure activities.
- Continue addressing property questions from auditors through OCFO. No major items have been identified.

M&R: TSI's three-year M&R Plan for FY 2016/2017/2018 was approved by the Global Operations Director on December 1, 2015. In mid-February, we finally received OMB approval of the M&R funding apportionment for FY 2016. The final allotment amount for FY 16, including carry-over and recoveries,

was \$3.13 million. By the end of February, M&R funding allotments were sent or earmarked for critical projects at our network facilities in Botswana, CNMI, Cyprus, Greenville, Kuwait, Philippines, Sao Tome and Thailand. Accomplishments for September include the following: completed Cyprus antenna towers inspection, completion of electrical maintenance work in Greenville, and reviewed of report of site investigation for Tinang fire alarm system replacement. Carryover & Recoveries for FY 16 is approximately \$200K. We started the process for development of the FY 2017/2018/2019 Plan in mid-June with the Annual M&R Project Call to the stations. All submissions were received by the end of August. Submissions have been reviewed and a draft 3-yr M&R Plan has been developed. We are currently incorporating some changes and should be able to present the 3-yr Plan for final approval next week.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. Demolition of ceiling and floor has been completed. New work is progressing, which includes new walls, electrical raceways, wiring and installation of new floor tiles. The coordination drawings were resubmitted and again rejected due to numerous items missing and lack of coordination. Hanson (designers) will be on site on October 12 to perform an inspection to reassure the work completed is in compliance with the contract drawings and specifications. The inspection will also help to determine if the contractor is on track to project completion at the beginning of November.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016

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

The rainy season is upon us, but there is no rain. The antenna fields have no vegetation growing, which has resulted in a reduction of mowing.

This month the installation of the Fire Alarm and Air Filtration systems continue. The fire alarm company was idle for five days due to a long delay at the Botswana border to receive parts from South Africa. Concrete pads have been poured and properly grounded for the Air Filtration units built by Apache Manufacturing.

The Station was fortunate to have a Gold Medal recipient. Congratulations to (b) (6) for receiving this well-deserved recognition!

The Station Manager travelled to Embassy, Gaborone on the 06th to attend Country Team Meeting.

The Station Manager travelled to Sao Tome, on the 17th through 26th to attend a Representation Event.

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

ABM Electrical Power Solutions completed inspection and test of the Station's electrical system. A report of their findings is pending.

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

September was a hectic month for all, both technical and admin staff. Fiscal year-end was successfully closed out. Funds were 99.99% obligated.

We had a visit by TSI's (b) (6), accompanied by Cisco staff (b) (6) and (b) (6), during September 4th – 9th to upgrade the Lampertheim EUTELSAT 13° uplink and configure the replacement system. CISCO Hotbird system training was also provided to Satellite unit staff.

Early in the month preparations were made for the travel to Cyprus. We worked with the new FMM Cyprus Station Manager to get the Letter of Invitation for our Thai rigger colleague, (b) (6). It took quite a while until he got the visa issued. Finally, he could travel to Cyprus in mid-September, to join TSI's Richard Cai, the inspection contractor from the US, and Germany staff (b) (6). The trip was fruitful and they came back with a better picture of what needs to be done in the coming fiscal year.

Station received a request from Sao Tome to support reconfiguration of the Station's fiber link in order to get them off an MPLS circuit by November 1st and use a simple fiber connection into the Station. This required some reconfiguration that (b) (6) performed. The reconfiguration will save Sao Tome quite a good amount of money. (b) (6) and (b) (6) travelled to Sao Tome at the end of September.

Station exercised the Afghanistan's IDIQ contract Option Year One with (b) (6).

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

After a much enjoyed 3-week R&R in the US, (b) (6) returned to post on the 14th. He had 2 days of overlap with (b) (6) to ascertain Station status before (b) (6)'s departure on the 16th.

(b) (6) arrived in Kuwait on the 16th of September. He will serve as the Interim Station Manager until November 6th, 2016.

Mark Poe arrived in Kuwait on the 17th, from HQ, in support of the Dipole Antenna RFP vendor site visit. Six local companies made appointments to meet with Marc for a tour of the antenna erection site and to ask technical questions regarding the RFP. An award should be made within a month to build the Dipole Antenna towers.

The new US Ambassador to Kuwait, Ambassador (b) (6), visited the IBB Kuwait Transmitter Facility on September 28, 2016. He seemed to be quite interested in our broadcasts.

From the 12th – the 23rd, (b) (6), our Administrative Assistant, was in Washington DC to attend the Federal Acquisition Regulation Fundamentals Course.

From the 19th – the 23rd, (b) (6), our Antenna Supervisor, was also in Washington D.C. to attend COR Training.

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

Weather was an issue this month with Tropical Storm Chaba passing south of Tinian on the 28th. This storm caused only minor damage to Tinian's 333H and 295L antennas. Saipan site was spared and did not suffer any damage.

The fiscal year-end activities kept all busy with last minute procurements. The O&M contractors worked hand in hand with IBB staff, both here in the CNMI and in the Philippines, to close out the books.

As a preliminary step ahead of the addition of a water diversion berm on Tinian, conduits were installed for the new interconnection cabling planned for the security turnstile and guardhouse project. Our new Ditchwitch trencher was used and gave the O&M staff an opportunity for some hands-on training for its use and care. Saipan B&G personnel completed the trenching for the power line for the Light pole on the east side fence.

(b) (6), from DLA Energy Pacific, Hawaii met with Erlinda Dumatol on the 19th to provide an overview of the new DOD/DLA fuel contract processing requirements. Orders for fuel and gasoline under the new contract, effective January 1, 2017, will have to be processed through the DLA system, with DLA charging a certain percentage on orders made and received. She explained the requirements and steps required to access the DLA ordering and delivery/accepting system.

Mr. (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived on Saipan on September 25 for the network cable replacement project.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

An annual event, close-out of the FY16 budget, took its usual place center stage of Station efforts. We stayed well ahead of the curve with our GOE close-out, but the M&R Budget was more challenging. Fortunately, the US Embassy procurement section came through with issuance of the perimeter road and bridge repair contract, helping the Station achieve 100% obligations on the last day of the year.

(b) (6), Station Manager, was on annual leave for R&R travel from September 14-16, and 26 to 27, with TDY to Washington DC on September 19-23. With Mr. (b) (6) gone, Mr. (b) (6), CNMI Resident Engineer, traveled to the Philippines to serve as acting Manager and complete his medicals from September 10 - October 1.

Embassy Medical Unit, in coordination with Admin unit, administered flu vaccines to all LES and contract employees on September 30. The Medical Unit is also proceeding with x-ray screening of LES employees, as part of a mission wide effort to complete 100% TB screening.

This was a heavy month for training. From the 5th to 9th, (b) (6), and (b) (6), attended the Certified Premises Cabling Technician Course in Pasig City. From the 13th to 16th, twenty-four (24) IBB personnel attended the MS Excel 2010 - Level I Course from FSI, which was conducted on site by Mr. Virgilio de Guzman from the US Embassy Manila. Twelve of those participants then proceeded to take the MS Excel 2010 - Level II course the following week. Larry Chiu attended the VMware vSphere Install, Configure, Manage Training from September 12th to 16th, while (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended Implementing CISCO Network Security v3.0 Training from the 19th thru 23rd in Makati City. (b) (6) attended a Construction Cost Estimating and Analysis course on September 7th to 9th at UP National Engineering Center in Quezon City, while (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended a Protective Relaying Seminar on September 14th to 16th, also in Quezon City. In conjunction with the procurement of a new 6500lb. electric forklift, (b) (6) of Toyota Sucat, Paranaque, came to the site on the 28th. While at the site, he provided charger installation consultation services, followed by forklift safety training. Employees from all sections participated in the training, which included operator instructions and an obstacle course.

On the 13th, 30 students, 1 faculty and 1 tour guide from the Lyceum of the Philippines University, visited the Station as part of an educational tour.

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

STTS broadcast operations were outstanding this month. Transmitter availability and program broadcast availability was 100%.

On the 18th, Mr. (b) (5) arrived on Station to assume his duties as Deputy Station Manager. Regional Station Manager (b) (6) arrived that same afternoon. The following week was a whirlwind of meetings and getting to know staff names and duties. It was productive time for both new managers.

On the 23rd, the Station held its annual representational event. We were able to introduce both our Regional Station Manager, (b) (6), and new Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6), as well as thank public and private invitees for their support over the years. The reception was well received and enjoyed by all.

On the 25th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived TDY to assist HQ staff with network configuration after the deactivation of an expensive MPLS circuit.

On the 28th, the Station safety supervisor conducted the fourth quarterly safety meeting of the fiscal year. It was well timed to immediately precede the upcoming fuel offload and the safety hazards that it can present. No accidents or incidents were reported for the quarter, making the entire fiscal year accident free.

Riggers moved to antenna #2 curtain to replace five vertical feedlines and two horizontal radiators. Antenna #2 was fully refurbished by end of the month. Rigger painters continued corrosion control work on tower #14.

B&F Specialist (b) (6) successfully closed out the fiscal year with a zero balance.

Contractor (b) (6) completed installation and programming of our replacement GasBoy fueling system, cleaning up numerous unsuccessful earlier attempts. This has been a long and difficult project to see through to completion.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: Because the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station is in the final stages of closure, the submission of a monthly operation report has been suspended. However, Station Manager (b) (6) is continuing to oversee activities relating to the Station closure.

The major accomplishment for the month of September involved separation of the Station's Locally Employed Staff (LES). Embassy HR issued RIF letters to all of the LES on September 30th. Because those letters informed the LES that they would receive the same benefits under the Local Compensation Plan, regardless of whether they resigned or were RIFed, each employee elected to resign, effective immediately. As a result, the LES separation process was successfully concluded on that last day of FY 2016.

There were two major accomplishments during the month of October. During the week of October 3rd, (b) (6) directed the dropping of all 19 antenna towers. This was a major accomplishment in the closure process, but also bittersweet because it definitively marked the end of broadcasts from the Iranawila site as well the end of the USG's 60+ years of broadcasting from Sri Lanka. And during the week of October 10th, our logistics contractor, ATP, fully mobilized at the Station to begin the packing and crating of the transmitters and other equipment and materials being sent to other transmitting stations.

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

On the 6th, Station Manager Mr. (b) (6), TX Plant supervisor (b) (6), TX Maintenance Supervisor (b) (6), and Station Secretary (b) (6) met the Director of Radio Thailand, the Public Relations Department (PRD), Mrs. Thanthip Thongngamkam. The group then met with the Director of Public Diplomacy Information Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (b) (6) on the 8th. These two events were to strengthen the relationship with IBB and discuss ways to improve mutual broadcasting. These representational events were hosted by IBB on both days.

On the 13th, 40 students and teachers from Baan Koksai-ngam visited the Station.

On the 17th – 25th, Facility Supervisor, (b) (6) traveled to the Cyprus Cape Greco site to assist with the MW Transmitter and antenna inspections.

On the 18th – 27th, TX Supervisor (b) (6), TX Maintenance Supervisor (b) (6), and Radio Technician (b) (6) travelled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to install a new FM transmitter and to replace FM antenna cable at the IBB Affiliate FM 106.6.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 53 shipments in the month of October in support of the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency.
- The Annual Capital Asset Report was submitted to the CFO on Oct 1.
- The Environmental Liability Report was submitted to the CFO on Oct 25.
- Submitted the Annual Availability Report for the stations.
- Working on the agency's Vehicle Statistical Data for input into GSA FAST (Fleet Automotive Statistical Tool), report is due Dec 15th.
- Shipments were made to Johannesburg, Prague and Nairobi supporting the Deployment Branch.
- Three Continental transmitters have been loaded into 40' containers for shipment to Kuwait. There are eleven containers ready to ship from Sri Lanka to Kuwait. The containers have inside 3 complete Continental transmitters, radio transmission line towers, coaxial pipes, switches and antenna/transmission line parts.

M&R: Carryover & Recoveries for FY 16 were approximately \$200K. We started the process for development of the FY 2017/2018/2019 Plan in mid-June with the Annual M&R Project Call to the stations. All submissions were received by the end of August. Submissions have been reviewed and a draft 3-yr M&R Plan was developed. We incorporated some changes and presented the 3-yr Plan for final approval. The plan has been approved. We will start implementing HQ managed projects and distribute the allotments to the stations once the budget is approved. The proposed FY 17 M&R budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which is not even sufficient to fund the approved projects.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority

(DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. New work is progressing, but continuous delays in providing submittals are affecting the project completion. The coordination drawings and mechanical air systems product data were just re-submitted, weeks after review comments were provided to ARRIBA. On October 12, Hanson (designers) completed an inspection and a list of defects & omissions have been provided to the contractor. Hanson indicated at that time that Phase 2 & 3 were about 50% complete. ARRIBA would like to reach substantial completion before Thanksgiving. However, there are many outstanding items, especially for the fire alarm system, and GSA is very skeptical about the target completion date.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2016

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

The Station welcomed a Team of IT Engineers from TSI headquarters, (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), and (b) (6) from Sep 19th to Oct. 10th.

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

Operations were much busier than normal, mostly due to the visit of hurricane Matthew. As the hurricane progressed up the east coast, the Station implemented additional broadcasting to Haiti to support relief efforts in that country and area. Later as Miami, Florida appeared to be the storm's next target, the Station worked with the Office of Cuba Broadcasting to secure back-up programming at the Station should the Miami studios go offline. Thirteen hours of programming was available for direct broadcast from the Station if needed.

Fortunately, the Station suffered no damage from the storm and operations continued as usual. The backup generator was ready to supply power to the Station should the local mains feed fail but was not needed. It was necessary to operate a few transmissions on reduced power while the 85 mph wind gust were swinging the antenna elements, causing changes in VSWR as seen by the transmitters. The night shift was needed to remain on duty throughout the midnight hours, as many roads were closed or impassable due to flooding preventing travel from or to the site. Road conditions quickly improved the next day, and normal shift manning resumed.

On a more positive note, recommissioning and evaluation of transmitter GB-8 was done during the month by an engineer from Transradio, formally AEG. The cause of an intermittent audio dropout problem on the SIS feed was identified as a spurious carrier falling within the transponder uplink frequency. After it was removed, operation returned to normal.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6), Transradio, (b) (6), Von Kampen Associates, and a tower maintenance crew from Pamlico Tower, Inc.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) have become heavily involved in supporting the FM monitoring project and TSI's Daniel Maxwell to meet the deadlines for the first installations in Bamako and Accra.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) returned from Thailand, where they went to perform the site survey for replacement of existing TCI antenna slew switch controllers at Udorn Transmitting Station.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) returned from the trip to Sao Tome, where they provided support on installation/configuration of the new internet circuit and maintenance of CUCM and installation of additional VPN trunk to the African Continent, as well as training the staff there.

During October, there were some fierce attacks by the Taliban at Helmand and Lashkar Gha cities in Afghanistan, which were close to our FM stations. A commando force reached Lashkar Gha, and as a result of fierce fighting in and around the city, heavy casualties are inflicted on the Taliban. The techs

there had safeguarded the equipment at both sites as much as they could. Both stations were on air during the attacks and no damage to the stations were reported.

Due to the change of system to DVB S2 mpeg 4 on Hotbird during FY-2017, Germany is assisting the Deployment Branch to purchase new receivers for both African posts and the Eastern European affiliate stations. The change will involve purchasing a huge quantity of receivers, and eventually contracting the local technicians to do the installations. It's been brought to the attention of (b) (6) (through (b) (6)), who had a meeting with (b) (6) in Bangkok in October) that a big quantity of receivers are to be purchased and more funding will be required for affiliate stations, in order to be prepared for the change to DVB-S2 on Hotbird.

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

On the 12th, the Station held a farewell lunch for the Transmitter Plant Supervisor, (b) (6), who officially retired from USG service on October 13th with 45 years of service. The last 21 years (1995 – 2016) of his service were in Kuwait, where he has been supporting our mission since the installation of the 600 kW MW transmitter. His technical leadership has allowed the Station to maintain its high level of system availability. We will certainly miss his corporate memory and technical skills, but wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement in the Philippines.

Station Management Analyst, (b) (6), attended the Appropriation Law Seminar at Management Concepts in Washington DC from the 3rd through the 6th.

Procurement Agent, (b) (6) was in Washington DC to attend the FAR Fundamentals Course from the 17th through the 28th.

The Embassy RSO Office conducted a Security briefing for the IBB Staff at the Station on the 30th.

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

October was an especially busy month for the Mariana Stations. The reduced manning affecting both sites is expected to be resolved early in November. Six of RRC's personnel affected by the CW-1 visa issue are scheduled to return on November 1st, with one delayed an additional week. The Tinian site, having to deal with the brunt of the reductions, have had their hands full.

Technicians and the B&G staff pulled together and were able to keep the Station operationally sound. Commissioning the new frequencies for the fall broadcast schedule kept the MCR staff busy at both sites.

Mr. (b) (6), TSI's COR for the Antenna Guy Replacement and Inspection, visited both sites from the 17th through the 21st. Steve Lemay, the contractor who will replace the antenna guy cables, also traveled to Tinian to conduct a pre-mobilization visit and to meet with Mr. (b) (6).

Philippine Station IT staff visited the Marianas throughout the month to upgrade our LAN network cables to Cat 6. The upgrade included separate color-coding for our Automation, Cisco Phone and 152.75.240.x networks.

The Tinian B&G and MCR personnel completed the replacement of the floor tiles in the MCR. The O&M staff also fabricated and installed cable trays for the network cable upgrade and assisted with installation of a new MCR control console.

Saipan B&G personnel completed the groundwork, electrical and installation of the perimeter security lighting on the NE fence line.

There was a personnel accident on the 29th resulting in a broken wrist. RRC's (b) (6) fell from a ladder while doing maintenance on Saipan. He returned to work on 31 October, but will be on light duty for 6-8 weeks.

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

On the 7th, tanker ship M/T San Padre Pio arrived after several days of delay to deliver 330,000 gallons of DF2 diesel fuel. Preparations were not completed until sunset and barely in time to commence pumping before darkness fell. Pumping continued through Saturday noon, with clean up complete at 1600. Invoicing remains in limbo while the supplier wades through DLA's new online procedures.

On the 11th, riggers repaired arcing on antenna #7. Ground level maintenance on plates, fingers, switching motors and ACMUs occupied the rest of the month.

On the 23rd, Ambassador (b) (6) arrived in country for her first visit since local elections. Election protests in Gabon had prevented her earlier visitation to congratulate the new STP President on his election.

Also on the 23rd, RMO (b) (6) arrived on Station for a week of CPR, First Aid and AED training, as well as driver, rigger and fire brigade physicals. All medical records for dependent and TDY Americans were destroyed, having exceeded the 7-year retainage requirement.

On the 27th, technicians changed out capacitor C252 in SAO-1 to remedy excessive off-ons due to internal arcing in the device.

Rigger painters completed corrosion control work, priming and painting on tower #14.

Power plant technicians replaced the shorted radiator fan motor engine #1. They also replaced the right hand turbo charger on engine #2 and pressure-washed radiators of engines #4 and #5.

B&G performed corrosion control and painting on the road roller. They painted the structural supports in the motor pool bay and started painting house #2, inside and out.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: Because the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station is in the final stages of closure, the submission of a monthly operation report has been suspended. However, Station Manager (b) (6) is continuing to oversee activities relating to the Station closure.

The major accomplishment for the month of November involved packing and crating of the equipment and materials that are being shipped to other stations in the network. Our logistics contractor, ATP, completed all packing and crating activities, and prepared the 20 containers for onward shipping as soon as the Embassy receives the required approvals from the Sri Lanka Government.

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

The Station offered heartfelt condolences to all of our Thai friends and colleagues on the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. A true leader for his people, he served as an example to all world leaders on how true devotion to one's people can garner the trust, loyalty, and

dedication of those very citizens. His Majesty passed away on October 13th. The Station and the US Mission to Thailand has been mourning his loss. The Ambassador has ordered flags at US facilities to be flown at half-mast, and staff to wear black to show respect for the passing of the King for thirty days.

On the 5th through the 14th, FSNs (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Germany Station traveled to Thailand to perform a site survey for replacement of existing TCI Antenna Slew Controller at Udorn.

FSN Senior Technician, (b) (6), resigned after serving for 24 years, effective October 29th. It is so sad to see him go. The Station wishes him well on his new exciting adventure.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 41 shipments in the month of November in support of the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency.
- Submitted the Monthly Availability Report for the stations.
- The Agency's Vehicle Statistical Data has been uploaded into GSA FAST (Fleet Automotive Statistical Tool) ahead of the Dec 15th deadline.
- Shipments were made to Ghana, Chad, Johannesburg, and Jordan supporting the Deployment Branch.
- Property - Total Transactions in PIPS – 1800, Items Inventoried – 488
- Items Added to PIPS – 119 (of which 13 items were Capital Assets with a total value of \$691,551.61)
Items Deleted from PIPS – 177 (of which 21 items were Capital Assets with a total value of \$13,230,277.42 (Mostly Sri Lanka))
- The Property Management Team met with the Internal Controls Officer to review the Personal Property and Equipment Policy. The Internal Controls Officer has provided recommendations that will be tested soon.
- Packing and crating of all the Sri Lanka equipment was completed on November 10 as scheduled. A total of 21 containers were ready to depart: 12 for Kuwait; 5 for Thailand; 3 with vehicles for Botswana; and, a 20 ft. container for the Philippines. Most of the containers have already shipped. There were also 4 air-freight pallets - one to Germany returning tools, and 3 to Washington with test equipment, IT equipment and contractor tools.

M&R: We started the process for development of the FY 2017/2018/2019 Plan in mid-June with the Annual M&R Project Call to the stations. All submissions were received by the end of August. Submissions were reviewed and a draft 3-yr M&R Plan was developed. The plan has been approved and sent to the stations for review. We developed two A&E task orders and sent them to CON for processing. CON has already requested a proposal for both task orders, which include short circuit coordination and arc flash studies for CNMI and Kuwait, and a design-build package for chiller replacement in Greenville. Allotments to the stations will be distributed as funds are made available through the budget process. The proposed FY 17 M&R budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which is not even sufficient to fund the approved projects. In addition, some funds will need to be allocated for the replacement of the MW tower in Sao Tome.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. New work is progressing, but continuous delays in providing submittals and completing defects & omissions items are affecting the project completion. ARRIBA finally indicated that all the work above the ceiling in the break room and locker areas was completed. On November 21, Hanson (designers) completed an inspection for approval to close the hard ceiling in these areas. Only one HVAC item was found to be missing, which ARRIBA took care of, and the ceiling has been closed. ARRIBA targeted to reach substantial completion before Thanksgiving, which did not happen. The current schedule shows December 16 as the new target date for substantial completion.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2016

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

On the 7th, Station held an on-site Health Wellness Presentation given by the Botswana Medical Aid Society, a Health Insurance Company contracted by the Embassy for LES medical insurance. The topic that was discussed was "Men's Health".

On the 8th, Bot-A lost a total of nineteen hours and sixteen minutes due to burnt modulator power switch modules. Our preliminary investigations showed that one of the components (a capacitor) ruptured, exuding its contents and splashing flames to adjacent circuit assemblies. Almost 50% percent of the power switch modules were gutted by fire. The transformer and power cables that feed the concerned modules was burnt, rendering them unusable. The fire was so intense that the technical staff and all the Station personnel could not get into the modulator section to extinguish it. It took a long time to be suppressed. The standby 50 KW Continental transmitter, Bot-B, was brought on line. In the meantime, the technical staff and the support B&G crew worked tirelessly to clean/paint the modulator room in preparation for the receipt of the repair parts, which are being provided by the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station. Our thanks go out to HQ and the Sri Lanka Station for coming to our rescue in this time of need.

To add salt to the wound, on the 10th, Bot-B suffered yet another fate, burning most of the cables within the transmitter (step-start section, rectifier unit, modulator/audio units). The cause of the fire was attributed to overheating of the cables. The temperatures were so extreme that the insulating sheath of the cables just melted and shorted, as most of the cables are bundled together. The shorts affected the power supplies and many other individual components. The technical staff worked 24/7 to bring back this transmitter to full operation. Kudos to all the technical staff and the supporting B&G crew.

The Station Manager travelled to Embassy, Gaborone on the 29th to meet with the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, (b) (6), to discuss the renewal of the IBB Botswana Lease and Broadcast Agreement. The required two Amendments were signed by both (b) (6) and Ambassador (b) (6) of the United States of America, in Botswana on Nov. 30, 2016. This major accomplishment resulted in a 10-year extension to our bi-lateral agreement with the Government of Botswana.

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

Additional broadcasts to Haiti continued during the month.

Technical representatives with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory visited the site to meet with some of the staff and obtain an overview of the facility.

Other visitors for the month included students from the Pitt Community College Engineering Technology program, (b) (6) with SE North Carolina Magazine, and (b) (6), TSI.

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

HRO Berlin specialist on Merit Based Compensation (MBC) held a 2-hour MBC refresher training course at Lampertheim, and updated us on the results of the survey of the first year's implementation. Staff meeting was held on the 22nd. Topics discussed included M&R approved and pending projects for FY-17. So far, funding for overhaul of the MW antenna towers in Cyprus is approved. Staff will plan and coordinate with Richard Cai when funds becomes available.

The staff has been informed about the planned training to be offered to those interested in learning Administrative, Budget & Fiscal, and Procurement duties; this training will help in preparing for the retirement of two staff members by the beginning of Calendar Year 2018.

In terms of training this month, (b) (6) completed FSI course RP401 – Foreign Service National Leadership. (b) (6), LAN administrator/Automation Spec., completed the GSA Smart Pay Purchase Card training.

Our mechanical contractor has travelled to several FM sites in Afghanistan to investigate and eliminate problems with the generators. As a result of a heavy blast in Mazar-i-Sharif, the doors and windows of that transmitter building were damaged and have to be replaced. The broadcasts were not interrupted, and fortunately none of our technicians were injured. The attack was apparently aimed at the German Consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.

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

A State Department RSO Team from Washington D.C. visited the site on the 16th as part of a routine Embassy inspection and audit.

The Station staff replaced the leaking Shortwave Dummy Load Heat Exchanger Radiator System during the week of the 14th.

The Station's Fire Alarm System work continues and is about 90% complete. Specialized Security Systems began installation of the Vesda Fire Alarm System into SW Transmitter #6 on the 23rd. Subsequent work on the remaining transmitters has been put on hold, to ensure the manufacturer's recommendation and specification for installation has been met. The Contractor will provide calculations and drawings before the remaining work is commenced.

On the 21st, (b) (6) and his team began inspection and maintenance work on the A4 Curtain Antenna. We will continue that work on the remaining three curtain antennas after the holidays.

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

RRC has proposed a change of rigging equipment; the legacy capstan head winches, deemed unsafe, will need replacement with a suitable "man-rated" ascender/descenders. Three recommended powered boatswains' chairs have been ordered, one for each of the sites and one as a spare.

Tinian's Storm Water Diversion Enhancement project was completed on the 29th. The project added an earthen dike east of the Transmitter and Administration (T&A) building and some concrete run-off chutes under the transmission line distribution, west of the T&A building.

On Saipan, the Rome Transmitter Supervisor met with CAL-PAC (ITE Sub-contractor) on the 10th and coordinated the trenching of the new fiber being brought in to replace the copper Aktino 6Mbs circuit.

The cutover to fiber is scheduled for early December; Larry Chiu will travel to the Marianas to complete the change.

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, visited the Marianas on the 14th – 18th. (b) (6) visited both sites here and consulted with IBB staff. On the 16th, he hosted semi-annual contract discussions with representatives from Rome Research. (b) (6) from RRC Corporate participated via conference call.

The seven RRC employees who were awaiting the CW-1 Visa application renewals received same and returned to work in the Marianas.

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

The month started out with a bang! On the 1st, around 1715 UTC, we lost our NE MW tower during a rain squall. It appears that the structural failure was a (possibly two) corroded thimble that weakened the preform that it was meant to protect. This is similar to the failure that we reported in July when a single guy wire came down and was repaired on this same tower. This latest failure prevented the transmitter from broadcasting part of evening schedule and full morning schedule; a total of 7.75 hours of program were lost. We configured the remaining tower and ATU for omnidirectional transmission by 1100 UTC the following morning. On the 14th, we removed the base and first section of the tower from their precarious perch atop the ATU. In proceeding days, 4 more tower sections were removed to clear the way for electrical and coaxial line repair. Damaged coaxial line was removed and remaining line was evaluated. It was determined that 4 line sections were needed for repair, and that 2 line sections were salvageable. With 2 sections held in spares for many years, it is possible that the repair can be completed mostly with parts on hand.

On the 30th, the riggers set up the spider stage on antenna #5 screen side, to begin replacement of 9 corroded vertical wires.

Rigger painters started corrosion control work, priming and painting on tower #2.

HVAC team replaced corroded light fixtures and sockets in damaged ATU building.

Power plant technicians completed the installation of a new radiator on Generator #3, including corrosion removal and painting on the mounts. The left hand turbo on generator #1 was replaced, and the radiators on engines 2 through 5 were washed.

The HVAC team and Power plant techs supported the South African contractors performing the relay testing and related electrical maintenance work.

The B&G team conducted extensive repairs on ATU structure including removing and straightening roof beams, and replacing roof and side wall corrugated metal.

The B&G team also performed carpentry & masonry repairs, painting and electrical work on residence #2 in preparation for the arrival of the regional Station Manager.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: Because the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station is in the final stages of closure, the submission of a monthly operation report has been suspended. However, Station Manager (b) (6) is continuing to oversee activities relating to the Station closure.

The major accomplishment for the month of December involved shipment of selected equipment and materials to other stations in the network. (b) (6) confirmed that all 21 containers destined for Kuwait, Thailand, Botswana and the Philippines have left the Station and are in route to their final destination.

Mr. (b) (6) also reported that the Station is now ready for transfer to the Sri Lankan Government. It was hoped that the formal transfer would take place by the end of December; however, delays in the Department of State's authorization to the Embassy to proceed with issuance of a Diplomatic Note for termination of the bi-lateral agreement will likely cause the transfer to slip to January 2017.

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

On the 27th, TX Plant Supervisor (b) (6) and TX Maintenance Supervisor (b) (6) travelled to South Korea to perform preventive and corrective maintenance on the TVRO system at the IBB Affiliate station (FEBC).

(b) (6), Administrative Clerk, retired at the end of November with 34 years of service to IBB. We wish her well and for her enjoyment on retirement.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 31 shipments in the month of December in support of the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency.
- Shipments were made to Bamako, Abuja, Malabo, and Kabul supporting the Deployment Branch.
- Property - Total Transactions in PIPS – 1036, Items Inventoried – 402
- Items Added to PIPS – 53 (of which 3 of the items are Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$139.187.08), Items Deleted from PIPS – 50 (of which 13 of the items were Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$494.383.88)
- The Property Management Team continues to work with the Internal Controls Officer in the review of the Personal Property and Equipment Policy. The Property Management Officer has received the revised recommendations from the Internal Control Officer and is reviewing them to see if they can be implemented. Once the recommendations are validated and implemented, then they will be tested for compliance. More work is needed in this area as the Finance Office and Property Management Team do not agree on some of the recommendations.

M&R: We started the process for development of the FY 2017/2018/2019 Plan in mid-June with the Annual M&R Project Call to the stations. All submissions were received by the end of August. Submissions were reviewed and a draft 3-yr M&R Plan was developed. The plan has been approved and sent to the stations for review. We developed two A&E task orders and sent them to CON for processing. CON has already requested a proposal for both task orders, which include short circuit coordination and arc flash studies for CNMI and Kuwait and a design-build package for chiller replacement in Greenville. Proposals have been received and approved to move forward with the awards. A first phase of allotments

were distributed to the stations. The proposed FY 17 M&R budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which is not even sufficient to fund the approved projects. The funding situation is becoming even more challenging with emergency requests from Sao Tome and most recently from Greenville.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. New work is progressing, but continuous delays in providing submittals and completing defects & omissions items are affecting the project completion. ARRIBA finally indicated that all the work above the ceiling in the break room and locker areas was completed. **On November 21, Hanson (designers) completed an inspection for approval to close the hard ceiling in these areas and the ceiling was close a couple of days after. Project management continues to be an issue for ARRIBA. Project completion date continues to change due to the contractor's inability to provide accurate submittals in a timely manner and inefficiencies sequencing the work. GSA now expects substantial completion by mid-January.**

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2017

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December:

On the 14th, the SSM parts needed to repair MW transmitter Bot-A arrived from Sri Lanka. The technical staff immediately started unpacking the crates to verify the contents. The original two burnt stacks and transformer cables were removed and replaced. The staff worked tirelessly throughout the festive season to finalize the installation. On the 30th the installation was completed and the transmitter was ready for testing. All initial stages of the transmitter start-up looked promising; however, upon switching on the filaments an unexpected overload fault occurred. This overload prevented the transmitter from coming on. Further troubleshooting determined it was a bad toroidal transformer that caused the overload condition. Because we did not have toroidal transformers in stock, replacements had to be ordered from the U.S.

The standby 50 KW Continental transmitter Bot-B continues to “hold down the fort” while we await completion of repairs to Bot-A.

Kudos to all the technical staff, the supporting B&G crew, the HQ and the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station personnel for assisting Botswana Transmitting Station during this difficult time.

The Regional Station Manager travelled to Embassy Gaborone on the 15th to attend the EAC meeting.

On the 28th, the Regional Station Manager departed post for site visit in Sao Tome; he is expected back at post on the 29th of January.

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

On the 18th, one of the three phase 100 KVA building transformers failed, causing a loss of 120/208 voltage to different areas of the transmitter plant including switch bay air, SIS system and computer server room. During that time, extension cords from unaffected 120V circuits and portable generators were used to quickly restore normal broadcast operations. As there was adequate capacity in an adjoining circuit, a new breaker was installed December 29th, allowing the operational feed to temporarily power the affected circuit and bypass the defective 100 KVA transformer.

Additional broadcast to Haiti continued during the month.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) – Econco rep, (b) (6) - IBB SIS contractor, (b) (6) - Duke Energy rep, and a team of electrical contractors from SEI.

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

Preventive maintenance was done on several transmitters at Lampertheim. A water leakage was fixed on LAM-06.

A crate with parts for support of the FM and MW transmitters was packed and sent via FedEx to Djibouti.

(b) (6), LAN Administrator/Automation Specialist, and (b) (6), SES supervisor/Contracting Officer, completed the FSI training GFS10 – Reading and Understanding of Fiscal Data v5.0. on the 29th.

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

(b) (6) from Sietid in Morocco was at the Station the week of the 4th to inspect the FM at Liberation Tower, make recommendations for reconfiguration of the system to make it more robust, and to provide as-built AutoCAD drawings.

Over the last few years, the FM backup station at Mutla Ridge had developed a number of sand dunes inside the perimeter fence that allowed trash to pile up and also provided access for stray animals. A contract was awarded to remove the excess sand and level the ground. This work has now been completed.

The Station Fire Alarm System work continues. Specialized Security Systems began installation of the Vesda Fire Alarm System in SW transmitter #6 on November 23rd. Subsequent work on the remaining transmitters has been on hold, to ensure the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications for the installation have been met.

The inspection and maintenance work on the A4 curtain antenna has been completed. We will begin inspection and maintenance work on the A3 curtain antenna next month.

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

Mr. (b) (6) of IBB Philippines was on site for: acceptance of IT&E fiber optic installation; changeover of IBB 152 network-wide area service from Aktino; changes in the wide-area IP address to prevent configuration conflict with Washington DC IPSec router; and configuration of the Cisco IPSec router to replace the Netgear VPN firewall for the automation network.

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

On the 31st, Mr. (b) (6) retired after nine years as Station Manager, and boarded an Airbus 320 to begin a new chapter in his life. (b) (6) ran a tight ship and the broadcast numbers reflect his efforts. The staff and Sao Tome Government officials will surely miss his presence on the island.

Upon (b) (6)'s departure, Deputy Station Manager (b) (6) arrived to resume his managerial duties. On the 28th, Regional Station Manager (b) (6) arrived from Botswana as part of the transition.

Partial shipment of the thimble connectors for the MW tower guy wires have arrived. Rigging staff will begin replacing the connectors and expect to finish by mid-March.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: Because the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station is in the final stages of closure, the submission of a monthly operation report has been suspended. However, Station Manager (b) (6) is continuing to oversee activities relating to the Station closure.

The major accomplishment for the months of December and January involved the Diplomatic (Dip) Note for termination of the bi-lateral agreement. The Embassy sent the DOS-authorized Dip Note to the SLG's Foreign Ministry on December 22, 2016, and received approval from the Foreign Ministry on December

28th. The Embassy received the SLG's final approval concerning termination of the bi-lateral agreement on January 18th after the Cabinet's authorization was granted. Mr. (b) (6) and the Embassy are awaiting notification that the SLG is ready for transfer of the Station site.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December:

On the 2nd, Transmitter Plant Supervisor (b) (6) and Maintenance Supervisor (b) (6) from South Korea. They were in South Korea to perform preventive and corrective maintenance on the TVRO system of the IBB Affiliate station, FEBC.

On the 9th, DCM (b) (6) and Embassy staff toured the Udorn site.

On the 21st and 22nd, the Station received and unloaded five 40 ft. containers from the Sri Lanka station. All items were accounted for out of the containers, and there was no apparent damage to the packing.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Logistics - Shipments were made to Abidjan for TVRO support. Security items were sent to Rangoon, Burma. VJ equipment from the Cambodian Service was sent to Phnom Penh. VJ equipment from Kurdish Service was sent to Erbil, Iraq. And items for the Marketing Office were sent to Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Property - Total Transactions in PIPS – 1202, Items Inventoried – 744

Items Added to PIPS – 52 (of which 2 items were Capital Assets with a total value of \$50,469 (vehicles))

Items Deleted from PIPS – 52 (of which 14 items were Capital Assets with a total value of \$1,126,900.82)
- Met with OCFO regarding Capital Assets threshold and useful life. Changes will be included in the update to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Property, Plant & Equipment (PP&E).
- Started reviewing the process in which reportable property is acquired and reported to the Property Management Team. The review will encompass the roles of the Contracting Office, Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs), personnel requiring the equipment, and the Property Management Team. Recommendations from this review will be used to update the Broadcasting Administrative Manual for Domestic and Overseas Property Management.
- FEMP – We finalized and submitted the BBG's annual energy report on Greenhouse Gas inventory and energy data for 2016 to the Department of Energy by the end-of-January deadline.

M&R: We started the process for development of the FY 2017/2018/2019 Plan in mid-June with the Annual M&R Project Call to the stations. All submissions were received by the end of August. Submissions were reviewed and a draft 3-yr M&R Plan was developed. The plan has been approved and sent to the stations for review. CON awarded two A&E task orders, which included short circuit coordination and arc flash studies for CNMI and Kuwait and a design-build package for chiller replacement in Greenville. A second phase of allotments was distributed to the stations. Sao Tome station

manager received a quote of \$570K for a turnkey replacement of the MW tower. In addition, we are still waiting for an emergency funding request from Greenville. The proposed FY 17 M&R budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which is not even sufficient to fund the approved projects.

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, 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. From this point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract, drawings and specifications in numerous occasions. This pattern continued and we ended up requesting the replacement of the CQM contractor. A new CQM started working on May 22nd. In addition, GSA also replaced the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and ARRIBA replaced its Project Manager (PM). The new GSA team has straightened out some of the administrative issues by developing an outstanding issues and updating the submittal logs, but progress continues to be very slow. The contract modification for the re-routing of the conduits from the basement to the NCC was issued on September 11, 2014 and after two shop drawings rejections, the installation was finally completed on January 26, 2015. During this period of time, GSA finally agreed to allow BBG to perform work on energized equipment to avoid disruptions to our broadcasting mission. GSA requested a Delegation of Authority (DOA) from BBG, which was finally processed and signed on March 16. ARRIBA completed the electrical testing of the new power distribution system and the third submission was finally approved on May 18, 2015. The actual power cutover was completed on May 27, 2015. ITI, telecommunications subcontractor, mobilized a couple of weeks after the power cutover. ITI completed the installation and a representative from Miranda, manufacturer of NCC monitoring system, was on site the week of September 14, 2015. The monitoring system was tested and significant issues were encountered. A remedial plan was submitted on September 30, 2015. After several review iterations, the Miranda work was completed and commissioning was performed successfully on February 12, 2016. ARRIBA re-submitted the commissioning reports, which were rejected as several critical items were not tested. We decided to move forward with the pre-final inspection, which was performed on February 22 & 23. There were plenty of items on the punch list, but finally Substantial Completion of Phase 1 & 1A was established on May 18. Migration into the new console area started on May 23. The NCC staff worked diligently through the migration. There were some setbacks due to cabling unavailability and miscommunications with the cabling sub-contractor. The NCC staff was able to work through these challenges and migration was completed on July 5. A pre-construction meeting for Phase 2 & 3 was held on July 12 and work started on the 13th. New work is progressing, but continuous delays in providing submittals and completing defects & omissions items are affecting the project completion. ARRIBA finally indicated that all the work above the ceiling in the break room and locker areas was completed. On November 21, Hanson (designers) completed an inspection for approval to close the hard ceiling in these areas and the ceiling was close a couple of days after. **ARRIBA has almost completed the items identified by Hanson during the inspection. A fire alarm outage was requested and approved to complete the installation of the fire alarm system. A Fire Alarm Acceptance Test was performed on February 1st without success -- the strobes and speakers were not working together. In addition, the second smoke detector activation did not shutdown the HVAC units as required. The fire alarm subcontractor reviewed the wiring from the new fire alarm control panel and believes that the devices were not wired correctly. GSA fire protection engineer stopped the testing and recommended the contractor to use the remaining of the fire alarm outage time to perform troubleshooting and correct the problems. GSA expects the failed test to have a significant impact on the project completion.**

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Bot-A transmitter was finally assembled and placed back on air on the 19th. The transmitter had been running at reduced power of 250 KW for test purposes. So far, the transmitter has been holding up and running well. We will continue to run the transmitter at a reduced power level until a three phase transformer arrives from Sri Lanka.

Davia (PTY) and Apache manufacturing out of South Africa continue to install the air filtration units that were purchased last year. There was concern about whether or not the filtration system was needed after the abrupt shutdown/liquidation of the BCL mining operation. However, it appears that an investor in the UAE is seriously looking at purchasing the company. If that is indeed the case, then the smelter will surely return to service, along with the sulfur it produces.

This month the Station donated old computers to Sehithwa Primary School in the Ngamiland District. The students at this school did well on their Primary Examinations in 2016. Sehithwa is a remote area and most students are less privileged in terms of basic needs. Computers will assist both teachers and students to improve academically and develop in areas of Information Technology. Both teachers and students warmly accepted these computers.

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

During the month, the area was hit with a snow and ice storm that required several transmissions to be made at reduced power due to high antenna VSWR. Fortunately, there was little to no damage to the Station.

Also during the month, the station welcomed (b) (6) to our staff as a contract electronic technician.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) with the Black Jack fire department and (b) (6) with the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club in Myrtle Beach, SC.

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

The Station was approached (through (b) (6)) by the Environment Department in Darmstadt and the Forestry Department (which serves as the landlord for Lampertheim) about grazing rights and the local shepherd agreement. In light of the European Community's environmental regulations, the Environmental Department has pointed out some rules that we, as tenant, need to be aware of and comply with. They proposed that the grazing right rests with the Forestry department, and whoever has the contract with Forestry Department, needs to respect our instructions when they enter IBB facilities, in order to avoid damage to our antennas, underground cables, etc. So far there has been no problem, and the grazing that takes place helps not only the community but also the Station by obviating the requirement to cut the grass. The landlord proposed that this additional agreement be added to our current Lease Agreement (as an Annex). Upon receipt of the draft from the landlord, it will be sent to WDC and (b) (6) for review.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) travelled to Djibouti this month. The purpose of their visit was to replace the tower lighting at the MW station, hold a meeting with RTD Management staff, and also to brief the new PAO at AmEmbassy Djibouti on IBB activities.

Cross-training for administrative and technical staff has been on-going. They have taken and completed some on-line courses during January.

FMC operations in Frankfurt has been downsized further. Payment vouchers, which we usually hand-carried to FMC/Frankfurt, will now need to be sent via mail until a new E-Vouchering system is brought on line. FMC/Berlin's Senior FSN has been scheduled to travel to Frankfurt next month to provide us with a demonstration on how the system works.

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

The Cisco Video Encoding crew from BBG headquarters—(b) (6) and a Cisco Engineer (b) (6)—were on site from the 8th thru the 17th to replace the existing Video Encoder Uplink System for the IOR, HotBird and AsiaSat Satellites. Although much of the configuration work was completed, a mono audio program encoding issue temporarily kept the system from going on line. Once a solution to this issue, which may be to replace the Lighthouse Switcher, is identified, they will complete the transition.

(b) (6), our newest Transmitter/Radio Technician, started work on the 15th.

Acting Station Manager (b) (6) met with Kuwait MOI (b) (6) to discuss and identify the type of training and seminars they would like IBB to provide as part of the country-to-country agreement that was renewed in 2013.

(b) (6) from the Office of Contracts in Washington arrived on the 27th to audit the Station's purchases and to provide Simplified Acquisition Program (SAP) training. As part of the training, he provided the Station's Admin and purchasing staff all the current regulations that they need to follow. He departed on the 2nd of February.

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

Alignment of 5.02 GHz and 5.80 GHz Microwave Antennas at both sites started on the 28th. Saipan's 5.02 GHz Microwave has excessive receive loss.

Tinian personnel completed the installation of the new insulation for the walls of the main building, and also completed the pressure checks and refills of SF6 gas for the 11KV breakers.

The major overhaul of HVAC No. 1's frame on Saipan was accomplished.

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

On the 8th, a feed-through capacitor in the PA of SAO-2 failed. The technicians on duty that day were able to troubleshoot the problem and make repairs with only 30 minutes of lost program time.

US Ambassador (b) (6) was on the island on the 11th for other official business. She was kind enough to take the time to assist us in presenting awards to two of our staff members. Power Plant

Supervisor (b) (6) received a Gold Medal Award for exemplary service and cost savings, and Storekeeper (b) (6) received a pin to commemorate 20 years of US Government service.

From the 21st – 26th, TSI Structural Engineer (b) (6) was at the Station to perform an inspection of tower conditions, including the failed MW tower. He also evaluated the fitness of our current tower crews, and has submitted a trip report.

Regional Station Manager (b) (6) was at the Station for most of the month, departing for return to Botswana on the 28th.

The Antenna crews were busy in the field, working around our broadcast schedule. Antenna #5's screen has been repaired, with all the damaged vertical wires being replaced. A fault on antenna #6 necessitated replacement of a relay contactor. The tower painters, having finished tower #1, have worked their way up to the first platform of tower #2, priming and removing corrosion.

The Power plant technicians are performing a top & bottom engine overhaul on generator #5, and by month's end were 30% done.

SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION: Because the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station has been in the final stages of closure, the submission of a monthly operation report has been suspended. However, Station Manager (b) (6) has continued to oversee activities relating to the Station closure.

Although BBG and the Embassy had been ready to transfer the Station to the Sri Lanka Government (SLG) in late December 2016 following MFA's approval of the termination agreement, during the subsequent two months the SLG seemed to be dragging its feet in taking possession of the property and remaining facilities. During January and February, representatives from various SLG offices continued to visit the site to inventory property, and in a few cases even take possession of some items. A SLG survey team also spent several days at the site during the week of February 20th to conduct a boundary survey.

However, the apparent foot dragging came to an end when the Embassy and (b) (6) were informed that the SLG would be ready to take control of the Station property and remaining facilities in late February. That pronouncement bore fruit, because (b) (6) handed over the keys to the Station facilities to representatives of the SLG in an on-site transfer ceremony on February 28, 2017. The USG's responsibilities for the site ended on that date, which included the requirement to make further lease payments, secure the site through the local guard force, and pay for commercial power used at the station. Kudos to (b) (6) for his hard work in achieving this major accomplishment.

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

On the 11th, the Pachi District Chief and 25 department heads of various District offices toured the Rasom site. The event was a big success and strengthened IBB's relationship with the District government.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- Completed 61 shipments in the month of February in support of the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency.

- Shipments were made to the Philippines, Thailand, Sao Tome, and South Africa in support of the Deployment Branch.
- Property - Total Transactions in PIPS – 3,817, Items Inventoried – 2,313
- Items Added to PIPS – 121 (none were Capital Assets), Items Deleted from PIPS – 105 (of which 5 of the items were Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$684,184.32)
- T/EOS/N is currently working with VOA personnel and transmitting stations to complete annual inventories. The estimated completion date for the inventories is late June, 2017.
- The Branch's Property Management Team has begun preparation for the upcoming BBG's audit. The estimated arrival date for the audit teams is late March/first week in April. The Team has worked diligently to improve upon last year's report, and is continuing to update the roles and responsibilities of personnel at various levels of the procurement and accountability processes. This joint venture will assist us with any revisions to the Broadcasting Administrative Manual for Domestic and Overseas Property Management.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan has been developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As a result, four approved projects will have to be deferred to next FY. The projects are: Tinian electrical work, Site condition survey, Tinang T&A building fire alarm replacement and Greenville repair of antenna guy wires. Contractors currently working at Tinian guy wire replacement and Thailand electrical maintenance. URS will visit CNMI and Kuwait this month to gather information for short circuit coordination and arc flash studies. Additional M&R activities include revision of reports for Sao Tome HVAC analysis and Cyprus antenna inspection, and revision of cost proposal for Tinang fire alarm replacement design drawings.

NCC Renovation: The Fire Alarm Acceptance test was re-scheduled a couple of times and finally performed on March 1st. The test was successful and commissioning reports will be submitted soon. ARRIBA started submitting project record documents, which were forwarded to Hanson for review and approval. Hanson will be on site on March 6th for final inspection. The project completion date will depend on the findings from the inspection. However, we expect to close out the project by the end of March.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2017

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station had no activities to report in February.

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

(b) (6) with Wheatstone Corp. was given a tour of the Station.

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

The Lampertheim site had several suspected commercial power outages on the 17th. After consultation with EWR and checking all Station power equipment, we determined that there were a few secondary defects caused by failure of the main generator control unit, making troubleshooting more complicated. The problem was rectified and commercial power service was restored after several hours. As a temporary workaround, the automatic generator control had to be disabled. Repair and circuit replacement by the manufacturer is planned for next month.

After the downsizing of FMC Frankfurt, FMC/Berlin has requested us to submit our vouchers directly to PSU rather than mailing them to FMC/Berlin vouchering. FCM staff came down to Frankfurt and demonstrated to our admin staff and LAN Manager how the system works. We could take more control of all IBB-related payments and this will definitely speed up the payment processes. As it only works in the Open Net – DOS system, they are not sure if it would work 100%, as we are other Agency. FMC is still looking into the option, i.e. they are looking into establishing the vendor code or IBB own Business Unit. In the meantime, station requested the RSA tokens from the DOS, for additional admin. staff to be able to log in to the State Department Open Net system.

As it has been planned to reduce the cost of the technical assistance from Moroccan-contracted technicians from two to one, (b) (6) travelled to Tajikistan to assess the capability of Tajikistan technicians to better cover the operations on their own after training has been provided to them for over three years. They also met with the Director General and the Chief technicians of AOOT to discuss the plan. It was a successful meeting, and they have concluded that we can start to reduce the technical assistant to one person. Should there be a critical issue that may not be solved via phone during the absence of technical assistance, Germany's staff will assist via phone/mail. In case of critical issues, German's staff will travel to assist. German staff will need to get multiple entry visas for stand-by. It's further planned that another technical assistant could occasionally assist at our transmitting station in Djibouti.

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

The Acting Station Manager, (b) (6), was away on leave from the 3rd thru the 17th. During this period, Mr. Wilfred Cooper was in Kuwait to oversee Station Operations.

Ampegon Engineers, (b) (6) and (b) (6), were on site from the 19th thru the 23th to replace the damaged "clutch and Disc Braking System" on the Rotatable Short Wave Antenna A5.

The inspection and maintenance work on the A3 Curtain Antenna was completed this month.

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

Drier weather has settled in the Marianas Islands, but occasional monsoon winds have plagued a few of our antennas, necessitating repairs to several feedlines. It was suspected that these winds may have shifted the dish for the 5.02 GHz Microwave between Saipan & Tinian Sites. Station staff has verified the alignment, and after further testing on the Links and it was decided that Tinian will move their 5.02 GHz dish to the western leg of Tower 1 to correct this problem. In its current location, a guy wire may be causing signal losses.

A kick-off meeting to continue M&R project 1614 was held on the 22nd via teleconference. Participating in the call were: (b) (6) representing AE Com/URS, (b) (6) representing TSI/WDC, and (b) (6), IBB's Resident Engineer in the Marianas. The meeting firmed-up the start date of March 27th, and the need to gather data necessary to complete a Short Circuit and Coordination Study.

The antenna guy wire replacement contractor, (b) (6) and crew, started work on the 27th, beginning with a contract kick-off meeting. Also attending were (b) (6) COR for the project, and (b) (6), IBB Resident Engineer Marianas.

Saipan staff has been preparing to refurbish the 20-Ton HVAC unit feeding the Transmitter Building. Parts have been received and work is schedule early in March.

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

On the 8th, SAO-2 dropped off air due to a bad synthesizer. This accounted for 1.5 hours of the lost time. Extensive and exhaustive troubleshooting was required, as the synthesizer seemed to be working well, but was occasionally putting out spurs. The transmitter was repaired before the next morning's broadcasts.

The month of February was busy with visitors. On the 10th, RSO (b) (6) arrived from Libreville to assist in the investigation of a trespassing incident. Coincidentally, another incident that occurred the previous day led to (b) (6) assistance in the suspension of Contractor SOCOGESTA's B&G Supervisor (b) (6). Although this incident was a setback, it has led to a positive outcome with replacement B&G Supervisor (b) (6) doing well.

On February 26th – March 3rd, (b) (6), Chief of IBB Physical Security Division came to STP to review all security issues, including the two previously described. Of special concern to the Station Manager is the increase of population surrounding the site, including a new high school directly across the street. (b) (6) was able to witness for himself the dramatic number of scavengers in and around our antenna arrays, taking fruit from the trees, wood, and fish; however, the locals also play soccer, picnic, and use the site as a park. While our Station agreement allows unencumbered beach access, the current level of intrusion of young & old locals could someday end in tragedy. A fence surrounding the antenna arrays is sorely needed. Tom is writing a report of his trip and has numerous pictures of the site.

February 9th was a successful day, with the most critically compromised guy wire of the remaining 600kw medium wave tower replaced. This was recommended in the inspection conducted by (b) (6) in January. It proved that our tower team is capable of performing this type of task. Work on replacing all other guy wires and hardware will commence upon the arrival of the spool of guy wire, ordered and on its way (ocean freight). Otherwise, the tower crew was kept busy. Having completed the repair of #5 screen in January, they moved on to the vertical feedlines on the #5 antenna, which are corroded.

HVAC crew was working on the Genie lift, used to access any high maintenance areas on the site, which has needed extensive repairs of the hydraulic rams. They also replaced one of the air tanks in the water system at the pump house, and are researching the “water-hammer” issue to find a solution.

On the 23rd, a B&G contract worker was injured in the Power plant while helping put away engine parts. He suffered a severe cut to his finger. Swift first aid was administered, and he was transported to the hospital. He is recovering nicely and we expect him back to work as soon as he heals.

A minor motor vehicle accident occurred between our shift bus and a motorcycle on the 28th. It was entirely the motorcycle rider’s fault, who ran away, leaving his female passenger laying in the street. The bus driver and passengers helped the victim into the bus, and she was transported to the hospital. She is OK, and all reports were made with the police.

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

Work to install the Solid State Modulator (SSM) from Sri Lanka in UDO-6 started on the 6th and was completed on the 28th. UDO-6 resumed broadcasts on March 3, 2017.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Branch’s Logistics Team has coordinated the movement of cargo to the transmitting stations and other divisions throughout the Agency. For the month of March alone they completed 75 shipments to locations throughout the world, such as Sierra Leone, Ghana, Czech Republic, and South Africa in support of the Deployment Branch.
- For the month of March, our total for transactions in PIPS was 4,750, and our total for Items Inventoried in PIPS was 3,116.
- This month we added 72 items to PIPS (3 were Capital Assets) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$3,543,065.80. We also deleted 373 Items from PIPS (38 of the items were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition value of \$9,746,765.01 (a majority of the items were part of the Sri Lanka closure).
- The Branch continues to push and complete as many of the annual inventories as possible, prior to the start of the annual audit. Currently we have completed over 80% of our inventories, and upon receiving the transmitting stations’ completed inventories we shall reach our goal of 100%.
- The Branch’s Property Management Team is also incorporating changes to the property accountability forms to better meet the Internal Controls Program (ICP). The updated forms will include the Property Inventory Processing System (PIPS) access request, Accountable Officers Statement of Responsibility, and the Property Control Officers appointment form. These forms will work in unison to ensure that the proper personnel have access to PIPS and that they understand their responsibilities.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan has been developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As a result,

four approved projects will have to be deferred to next FY. The projects are: Tinian electrical work, Site condition survey, Tinang T&A building fire alarm replacement and Greenville repair of antenna guy wires. Concerning the System Wide Electrical Maintenance Contract, the Contractor started work, at Udorn, on March 6th, and is expected to complete the work, at Bangkok, by the end of March. Test reports will be officially submitted shortly after the work is completed. Concerning the Guy Replacement work at the CNMI, the Contractor started work on March 1st. The contractor discovered that open strand sockets on four of the 22 guys had insufficient space for the existing connections of the guy lug plates on the tower legs of antenna tower 8. Therefore, new structural modifications are required for the installation of these four guys. A contract modification to correct this issue was sent to CON and awarded on March 30, 2017.

NCC Renovation: Hanson completed the final inspection on March 6th. No major items were identified and the inspection report, including the punch list, was submitted to GSA on March 10th. The commissioning report has been submitted for review and approval. GSA accepted ARRIBA's substantial completion letter on March 28, 2017. ARRIBA started working on the punch list last week. The tentative project completion date is April 7, 2017.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2017

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

The Station held a representation function on the 16th to acknowledge the recently-signed 10 year Broadcast and Lease Agreements between the Botswana and United States Governments. In attendance were US Ambassador (b) (6) and GOB high officials that included the Mayor of Selebi-Phikwe, Representatives from the Members of Parliament offices, the Mmadinare Chief, Botswana Police, Botswana Defense Force Commanders and School Heads. Ambassador (b) (6) expressed the importance of VOA's mission in Africa. He also stated that the signing represents the good relationship between the two governments.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station had no activities to report in March.

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

The new FMO/Berlin wants to see that IBB uses ARIBA/ILMS to submit procurement documents through ILMS system for fund certification and payments, which we are trying to make it possible when our staff gets trained, but it takes some time. We have been in contact with ILMS Help Desk and requested them to set up a separate program for IBB, separate from the GSO/Frankfurt Consulate.

Both Biblis and Lampertheim staff attended a one-day-course of Safety/First Aid training during March.

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

Mr. (b) (6), Kuwait Station Manager, visited the Station and initiated a number of projects to streamline the inventory and warehousing practices at the Station, which is inundated with useless and obsolete equipment and furniture.

(b) (6) of AECOM was on site to conduct the Arc Flash Study and take detailed account of the Station's Power configuration. Likewise, Mr. (b) (6) from HQ was here for the Dipole Antenna Kick-Off meeting with Jaggard.

In light of the tragic antenna accident in Tinang, and the fact that we don't have an antenna rigger crew at the Station, we have temporarily halted curtain antenna inspection and maintenance work, until the full complement of 3 recently hired riggers are on board and trained. We expect this work to resume in June 2017.

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

Tinian Riggers have begun an aggressive antenna maintenance program to address severe corrosion attributed to previous tropical storms and typhoons. Several shackles were replaced on antenna 280L's curtain and reflector suspenders, and a hardware refresh was started on Tower 4. Hundreds of bolts, nuts, and washers have been used. This increased maintenance activity is expected to continue, while striving to get ahead of the corrosion curve.

We have received the Antenna Assessment report from Hanson Engineering and are reviewing the document. These findings will reinforce ongoing inspections conducted by Rome Research Corporation, the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contractor. Of particular concern are the curtain and reflector array supports and cabling, which show advanced signs of deterioration. Moving forward, the station now has a drone-mounted camera system to assist with documenting antenna maintenance concerns and to follow restoral actions.

Work on replacing Tinian site's 22 corroded guy wires proceeded throughout March. A specification oversight on 4 GFE guy wire assemblies for Tower 8 concluded that the socket connections could not be attached to their respective tower tabs due to insufficient throat depth. CON has issued a change order allowing Steve Lemay LLC, the guy cable replacement contractor, to return to complete the project.

On the 21st, IT&E began installation of a microwave dish on Tinian's Tower 1. The installation included adding their termination equipment within Tinian's microwave shelter. The project will provide a redundant IT link, which will support both Tinian and Saipan operations. The installation and follow-on testing will continue until activation in early April. (b) (6), Philippine Station IT Engineer, was here to support this effort.

Hawthorn Caterpillar was on Saipan site the last few days of March to install a new Engine Control Panel for the standby generator. The installation continues and final testing will be completed the first week of April. (b) (6) assisted Hawthorne Cat with the SCADA interface wiring and control.

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

Much work was accomplished on the separation of the existing large B&G contract's SOW into 4 smaller SOW's. These are entitled: Transportation & Chauffer Services, Landscaping and Gardener Services, Cleaning and Janitorial Services, and the remainder of tasks are contained within a new B&G SOW. These actions are intended to foster competition, save money, and create more oversight of the subsections. These proposed SOW's have been submitted to HQ.

Work is ongoing on an extensively revised Security SOW, and the related Guard Instructions. These documents had been modified over the decades in a haphazard fashion, creating inconsistencies within the text and contradictions between the SOW and the Guard Instructions.

The Station received a visit from the B&G contractor of Botswana Station, (b) (6). (b) (6) witnessed the initial startup of the just-rebuilt Generator #5 by the Power plant staff, which was a success in all respects. (b) (6) also assisted in the repair of the older John Deere tractor's hydraulic system, demonstrating systematic troubleshooting techniques to the Motor Pool Staff.

HVAC staff continued on the replacement of many light bulbs to improve outdoor security, and replaced an electrical motor on the R/O water system.

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

On the 31st, 15 school employees from our neighbor, Ban Chainakam School, visited the Station.

Electrical contractor ABM arrived on site in Udorn on March 7th and completed the electrical equipment inspections at both Udorn and Bangkok on the 31st. From the 21st - 29th, (b) (6) visited from Headquarters to review ABM's work at the two sites.

The renewed Rasom agreement was completed with the exchange of Diplomatic Notes for the Medium wave site by both sides, American and Thai. The accepted reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Dip. Note was signed on March 23.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has coordinated 61 shipments for the month of April. Seventeen shipments were designated to our Transmitting stations and 15 shipments were designated to Embassies in Malawi, Ghana, Niamey and Hargeisa. One antenna was shipped to Maine for repair and we acquired 1 import from the Sri Lanka TS. This month T/EOS/N received 11 deliveries from JCM and prepared 5 shipments from IBB to JCM. As of April 27th, we have 4 open Requisitions pending shipment to their locations.
- For the month of April, our total transactions in PIPS were 1,877, and our total Items Inventoried in PIPS were 1,229.
- This month we added 104 items to PIPS (zero were Capital Assets) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$0.00. We also deleted 31 Items from PIPS; 7 of the items were Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$698,676.80.
- The Property Management Team is assessing new asset management software solutions to replace our older system. We're in communication with Obor Solutions (Zeus) and will be contacting Sunflower Systems in the near future to request an onsite presentation so that we can assess the system and attempt to tailor it to our needs. The Property Management Team is continuing to complete property inventories and preparations for the upcoming annual audit.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan has been developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As a result four approved projects will have to be deferred to next FY. The projects are: Tinian electrical work, Site condition survey, Tinang T&A building fire alarm replacement, and Greenville repair of antenna guy wires. Contractors completed work at Tinian—on the guy wire replacement except for Tower 8 due to an unforeseen condition—and in Thailand on the electrical maintenance work. URS visited Kuwait to gather information for short circuit coordination and arc flash studies, and the engineer is currently in CNMI for the same effort. Additional M&R activities include: revision of reports for Sao Tome HVAC analysis and CNMI antenna inspection; review of 65% design-build package for chiller replacement in Greenville; and completed SOW for Sao Tome MW Tower replacement.

NCC Renovation: Most of the punch list items have been completed. The power connection to shunt trip circuits was completed on April 26. During the work, a problem with labeling of the twist lock outlets above rack R-15 serving MPLS circuits was discovered. GSA is addressing this issue with ARRIBA. Submission of record documents and as-built drawings are the only items required for project closeout.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2017

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

An earthquake occurred in southern Africa that was felt at the Station on April 3, 2017. It took place in a region that has historically had a low level of earthquake activity. The Station facilities were inspected for any damage due to the earthquake, but everything for now looks to be fine.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in April;

On the 5th, a transient on the Duke Energy HV transmission line caused a momentary power outage at the Station. Upon restoration of power, it was observed that one of the transformers in a 3 phase transformer bank had developed an open secondary winding and a large portion of the building was without power. Fortunately, the primary transmitters are fed by individual feeders and the control room power was automatically transferred to an alternate feeder. With the use of a few extension cords, normal broadcast were restored. An auxiliary generator was obtained quickly and provided power to the defective circuit until a temporary transformer could be installed. An upgrade to the current power distribution system is pending.

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

Station operations were at normal in April. Admin staff had been busy with ILMS (Integrated Logistics Management System) remote training and get the account set up through the State Department. Staff had remote training and overview with ILMS Help Desk, who is working on the programming and setup of paper flow between IBB – FMC and return to IBB. This will help speed-up the procurement obligations and payment process, as well as tracking the status.

The Station continued its manufacturing and software development process of the slew controllers for Thailand, with several tests of the units successfully performed. The system is fully modular and allows an easy replacement of the existing TCI control units without changing any existing wiring. That means in case of problems the system can be switched back in minutes. The final test phase and final adaption will be performed at the Udorn site next month, when the team from Lampertheim will install this new slew control system for the first antenna. After successful commissioning of the first antenna, 24 more systems will be installed in the next months. The team will also study the site a possible automation project there.

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

The person of the month, (b) (6), retired on April 27, 2017 after faithfully providing 41 years of dedicated service to IBB Tinang and Kuwait.

The Station's Transmitter Technicians completed the re-routing and installation of the Vesda Fire Alarm System and integrated it into the Station Fire System Controller for SW Transmitters 1 thru 6. Work to install the bi-metal trigger for Halon release remains, and the bi-metal probes are being procured.

In light of the tragic antenna accident in Tinang, and the fact that we don't have an antenna rigger crew at the Station, we have temporarily halted curtain antenna inspection and maintenance work, until the full

complement of 3 recently hired riggers are on board and trained. We expect this work to resume in June, 2017. Antenna Rigger (b) (6) from the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station formally joined the Kuwait Antenna team, on April 16th. We hope to have a second Rigger join the team on May 15th, which will allow us to begin training and resume the inspection and maintenance of the remaining curtain Antennas.

Jaggard's sub, ELMEC Engineering, has begun excavation work at the site preselected for the installation of the Dipole SW Antenna. Plans are to complete all the concrete work before May 28th, when Ramada begins and the whole country is on a month-long fasting binge.

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

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, visited the CNMI Stations April 25-30. While in the Marianas Mr. Martin and Mr. Gifford met with (b) (6), Project Manager for the O&M Contractor. Items discussed included antenna maintenance, manning, and access to agency computers. Mr. (b) (6) toured both facilities and was able to take in some of the festivities at Tinian's annual San Jose Fiesta held April 28-30.

(b) (6) (PTS Telecommunications Engineer), completed the reconfiguration of the IT&E network which included adding a Microwave link on Tinian Island, and resulting redesign of the Saipan network. (b) (6) worked closely with the technicians from IT&E during the initial installation and finalized the configuration with a new VPN router design which involved changes to Tinian, Saipan, and Tinian IT networks. We now have the capability for redundancy if either of the Mariana Island sites suffer another catastrophic communications failure as happened in 2015 when the undersea fiber cable was lost between Tinian and Saipan.

(b) (6) from URS/AECOM, visited both sites April 24-28 as part of M&R project 1006, to complete an Arc Flash Study. Part of the tasking included a Short Circuit Analysis and an Overcurrent Protection Coordination Study. The study will determine the proper set points of switch gear protective relays and will establish the proper arc flash boundaries and associated area labeling.

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

Edits were completed on an extensively revised Security SOW, and the related Guard Instructions. These documents had been modified over the decades in a haphazard fashion, creating inconsistencies within the text and contradictions between the SOW and the Guard Instructions. Retyping is underway.

Preparation was underway for cleaning of the fuel tanks. Much information has been gathered and made available to potential contractors. Research is ongoing to economically replace a sludge pump that has failed.

Data and internet services were intermittent nearly the entire month, including 2 complete days offline, causing delays in many work efforts. The provider has been informed of the issues, and problems have ceased as of May 3. Excuses for the outages included undersea cable troubles.

Tower crews have discovered even more corroded cabling on antenna 5, so they remain there, as the rigging is already in place.

B&G continues regular chores of mowing, corrosion control, and support of various Sections as needed. Replacement of corroded fence fabric continues.

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

From April 27- May 17, (b) (6), Supervisory Administrative Management Specialist traveled to the Washington DC for training and consultations at Headquarters.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has coordinated the movement of a total of 42 shipments for the month of May: 16 shipments were designated to our transmitting stations; 2 shipments to the Embassies in Mozambique and Abidjan (designated for other); and 36 Lithium batteries were shipped to Providence, Rhode Island for shipment to Joyce Ngoh, who is located in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Logistics Team also completed 11 deliveries and 4 pickups from IBB to JCM. As of May 24th, we have 3 open requisitions pending shipment to their locations.
- The Logistics Team, along with the CFO staff, submitted the FY 2017 fleet management plan and budget narrative to the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) system on May 31st. The BBG provides this annual report to the GSA detailing our motor vehicle fleet in a more granular format for each individual vehicle and its cost, miles, and fuel consumption.
- This month we added 15 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets). We also deleted 21 Items from PIPS (7 of the items were Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$35,660.26).
- The Property Management Team is continuing to work with the Accountable Officers throughout the agency to meet annual inventory requirements and prepare for the upcoming financial audit. The team is also continuing to work on finding a new asset management system.
- The Property Management Team engaged in a meeting with the auditors from Kearney & Company, P.C. The Team discussed changes in the BBG's policy and procedures, the findings from last year's audit and the transmitting stations that could/would be audited for 2017. Currently, Kearney & Company would like to audit Sao Tome and Botswana, and are researching the cost of the trip. If they are unable to travel to these locations, Germany and Thailand were mentioned as possible alternative sites. As the audit team prepares for their trip to these locations, the Property Management team will standby ready to assist in any way possible.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan has been developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As part of the third quarter allotment distribution, additional funds were identified from FY16 carryover. As a result, there are now funds available for a complete turn-key project for the replacement of the Sao Tome MW Tower. In addition, a task order will be processed for Botswana and Sao Tome short circuit coordination and arc flash studies. Additional M&R activities during this month included: review of Thailand electrical maintenance test reports; posting of Cyprus RFP for safety ladders; receipt of 65% submission of Tinang FA system design; and receipt of CNMI short circuit coordination and arc flash studies.

NCC Renovation: All punch list items but the leak detection system tag labeling have been completed. Submission of record documents and as-built drawings has been received as required for

project closeout. Also, the mislabeled twist lock outlet serving rack R-15 was traced and relabeled correctly. On May 18, the NCC hosted an Open House where the team unveiled the newly renovated space and new monitoring capabilities.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2017

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

The Station was tasked with a mammoth task of having to send technical staff to Manga Hills, Bujumbura, Burundi and Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) to carry out technical work on our affiliate FM transmitters.

The trip to Burundi started on May 14, to undertake some repairs on Flexiva FAX 5K FM transmitter located at Manga Hills, Bujumbura. The transmitter was found running at a reduced power of 1.9 KW instead of 5 KW full rated power. The problem was due to faulty modules, components and cables. The technical staff, with the assistance from HQ and local Embassy personnel, managed to correct the anomalies in the transmitter, and as of this writing the transmitter is running at full power.

The second leg of the assignment was for the technicians to head to Bangui, Central African Republic to carry out some preventative maintenance on a Harris ZX 1000 Transmitter, which commenced on May 21, 2017. The transmitter, which is located within the Embassy compound, is rated at 1000 watts full power. It was found that the transmitter was operating at 4 watts of forward power without any alarms, which would suggest that there were problems. The technical staff then decided to work on the transmitter to find out why it was not operating at full power. After some labor-intensive work on this transmitter, all was returned to normal operating state, and it is reported to be operating the correct level.

Congratulations to the technical staff. A detailed report will be out soon.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:

The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in May;

Installation of the new station PBX system was begun and completed during the month.

The project to refurbish the 2nd IPA of GB-6 was begun during the month. Transmissions were transferred to other in-house resources as needed.

Visitors for the month included Mr. (b) (6) from headquarters and several members of the public that were interested in touring our facility.

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

This month the local TRK staff in Orzu operated the IBB MW and SW transmitters without support of the Moroccan technical assistant contractor on site. The reduction of the Moroccan technical assistant contractor has saved significant money. So far it is running smoothly. However, we also have a Plan B, i.e. should a serious problem occur that they could not solve themselves - Germany staff will fly in to fix the problem. They have a one-year-visa and are standing by.

A team of three engineers were in Thailand to meet with the Engineer Liaison for Afghanistan and Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) engineers during the Harris training in Ra-Som, and in Bangkok. At the same trip a prototype version of the newly developed controller systems for the antenna slewing systems was tested. Also, an extensive investigation of all local equipment control systems have been carried out in Udorn as well as in Rasom. In general all staff took the opportunity to become familiar with Thailand requirements so that the developed equipment and software will meet the required needs.

Both IBB Germany Contracting Officers successfully completed the FSI training in Principles of Appropriation Law. This training is required for recertification of Contracting Warrants every two years.

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

IT personnel from Washington arrived on the 6th to commence a Technology Refresh at the Station, which included installation of new Work Stations with Windows 10 OS, new Cisco Routers, new Cisco Gigabit Switches, new Cisco Firewall devices, new Data Storage Servers and a brand new wireless system for the 152.75.232.xxx segment. The station would like to thank (b) (6) for their dedication and work to bring the Kuwait Transmitting Station to the 21st Century.

Locally hired Antenna Rigger, (b) (6), joined IBB on May 14th, 2017.

(b) (6) arrived on the 15th. They were here to conduct a 2-day IBB Seminar in “Migrating Legacy Audio Visual Assets to Digital Archiving”, to the Kuwaiti, Ministry of Information personnel as part of the Country-to-Country broadcasting agreement with the State of Kuwait.

The month of fasting and feasting continues until the end of June, when the end of Ramadan will be celebrated on Eid Al-Fitr with 3 days of official holidays here in Kuwait, June 25th thru 27th.

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

The Tinian and Saipan stations had excellent availability numbers for the month of May with both having percentages better than 99.9%. These numbers are especially impressive given the increased instances of antenna and transmitter substitutions required to support antenna fieldwork. The Tinian fieldwork included reflector/feedline wire repairs on antennas 267L, 280L and 295H. Other work included applying Trenton Wax Primer to Tower 4's new guy cables and a continuation of some hardware replacement and corrosion abatement on Towers 3 and 4. Saipan fieldwork included application of wax primer to various cables and replacement of several of Tower A's hardware and tower braces.

Now well into the dry season, several fires have occurred on the both islands during May, thankfully none near the stations. The B&G staff has been busy widening the perimeter fire breaks and remains ever watchful for grassland fires.

Tinian B&G staff completed the installation of new LED emergency lighting throughout the facility.

Saipan B&G technicians completed the refurbishment of the 20-ton AC on the east side of the transmitter building. They also completed the refurbishment of the Saipan Dummy Load exhaust system.

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

Family members of 38 LES employees joined us at the station to attend the “Take your Family to Work Day” event held on May 5th.

The annual meeting with local PNP and military officials was held on the 10th. Local officials and IBB staff met for dinner in a local restaurant in Tarlac.

In coordination with US Embassy in Manila Medical Unit, our station held an annual health fair from the 17th through the 19th. Skin TB testing for LES staff was performed on the 17th; blood donations were collected on the 18th, and physical examinations for LES staff and contract employees were available on the 19th.

The annual meeting with officials from 5 surrounding barangays was held on the 25th. IBB staff and barangay council members joined by mayors of Capas and Concepcion gathered for dinner at a local restaurant at Capas.

(b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended the Memorial Day Celebration at the American Cemetery, Taguig, Metro Manila on May 28th.

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

The tower crews are almost finished with antenna #5, and it looks nearly new. This is a labor intensive process, with the hundreds of individual clamps and wires that needed to be redone. Many active elements of the antenna were also replaced such as feedlines. The prediction is on more week for cleanup, and they will be on to a new job.

If we are fortunate, the next job will be the refurbishment of the remaining MW tower. Still awaiting the guy wire ordered long ago, which was delayed for over a month by the freight consolidator in Chantilly.

The fuel tank cleaning and inspection project planning is nearly complete, with the selection of a contractor. We are just awaiting a final quote which will be processed through the Botswana site, since the contractor is from there.

The “sludge pump” necessary for fuel spill contingencies at the Marine Fuel Terminal has finally been ordered. The pump will also be used for the fuel tank cleaning operation, therefore obtaining double value on the purchase.

After a conference call with Hanson, an HVAC renovation study was forwarded to the site. Of the 3 options for refurbishment of the cooling of the TAB, the mini-split unit option seems most viable. A chiller unit can have a hard failure where there is no cooling until it can be repaired, and expensive spares are difficult to stock adequately and/or obtain quickly on an island. The mini-split option consists of many small units, which, by their nature are redundant, and entire units can be kept as spares for lower cost. And, the mini-split option is lowest cost overall

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

Work continues on the Udorn roof replacement project and is expected to be completed the first week of June.

Training was held on the Harris medium wave transmitter at the Rasom site from the 22nd through the 26th. Attending the training were technicians from Germany, Afghanistan and Thailand. The training was very comprehensive and provided much needed understanding of maintenance and repair as well as theory of operation and set up.

(b) (6) from IBB Germany installed and tested the TCI antenna controllers which they have designed and built for the Udorn site. The units worked very well. Kudos to (b) (6) and

(b) (6) for their effort on this much needed project. Upon their return to Germany, they will build the remaining antenna controller units to replace the failing TCI controllers currently in use at Udorn.

(b) (6) was also at Udorn during the month to begin his work on developing the Station Automation System. Once installed, this system will greatly improve the efficiency of operation of the Marconi short wave transmitters. His work on this project is greatly appreciated.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has coordinated the movement of a total of 42 shipments for the month of May: 16 shipments were designated to our transmitting stations; 2 shipments to the Embassies in Mozambique and Abidjan (designated for other); and 36 Lithium batteries were shipped to Providence, Rhode Island for shipment to Joyce Ngoh, who is located in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Logistics Team also completed 11 deliveries and 4 pickups from IBB to JCM. As of May 24th, we have 3 open requisitions pending shipment to their locations.
- The Logistics Team, along with the CFO staff, submitted the FY 2017 fleet management plan and budget narrative to the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) system on May 31st. The BBG provides this annual report to the GSA detailing our motor vehicle fleet in a more granular format for each individual vehicle and its cost, miles, and fuel consumption.
- This month we added 15 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets). We also deleted 21 Items from PIPS (7 of the items were Capital Assets with a total acquisition value of \$35,660.26).
- The Property Management Team is continuing to work with the Accountable Officers throughout the agency to meet annual inventory requirements and prepare for the upcoming financial audit. The team is also continuing to work on finding a new asset management system.
- The Property Management Team engaged in a meeting with the auditors from Kearney & Company, P.C. The Team discussed changes in the BBG's policy and procedures, the findings from last year's audit and the transmitting stations that could/would be audited for 2017. Currently, Kearney & Company would like to audit Sao Tome and Botswana, and are researching the cost of the trip. If they are unable to travel to these locations, Germany and Thailand were mentioned as possible alternative sites. As the audit team prepares for their trip to these locations, the Property Management team will standby ready to assist in any way possible.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan has been developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As part of the third quarter allotment distribution, additional funds were identified from FY16 carryover. As a result, there are now funds available for a complete turn-key project for the replacement of the Sao Tome MW Tower. In addition, a task order will be processed for Botswana and Sao Tome short circuit coordination and arc flash studies. Additional M&R activities during this month included: review of Thailand electrical maintenance test reports; posting of Cyprus RFP for safety ladders; receipt of 65% submission of Tinang FA system design; and receipt of CNMI short circuit coordination and arc flash studies.

NCC Renovation: All punch list items but the leak detection system tag labeling have been completed. Submission of record documents and as-built drawings has been received as required for project closeout. Also, the mislabeled twist lock outlet serving rack R-15 was traced and relabeled correctly. On May 18, the NCC hosted an Open House where the team unveiled the newly renovated space and new monitoring capabilities.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2017

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

The Regional Station Manager travelled to Embassy, Gaborone on the 15th to attend the Country Team meeting.

Cashier Monitors, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from CGFS/FSTO Paris visited the station on the 19th to conduct a Cashier Audit.

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

The GB-6 2nd IPA replacement project is now complete and the transmitter has been returned to service.

Duke Energy contractors prepared the station's low voltage power distribution system for the installation of new transformers and transfer switch.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) with Wheatstone Corp. and (b) (6) with the New Zealand Racing Board, on-site for a tour.

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

To coordinate all ongoing activities at the site, and in particular to keep track of achievements and new topics, station had a staff meeting on June 21st. While we talked about budget work for FY'18 and '19, we all agreed to use this time of the seasonal heat waves to focus on the inspection and maintenance of transmitters, antennas, B&G equipment—basically all recurring inspections which have to be performed regularly.

One of the Biblis site's feeder lines was damaged and caused a small fire at the grass level underneath. However, despite the fact that the defect happened outside of daily working hours, everything was under control due to the quick reaction of the guards, standby duty staff and local fire brigade. Once all was under control and the problem evaluated, the transmission feeder line was immediately repaired and system operation restored.

Request for proposal for the safety climb ladder installation in Cyprus has been closed. Station received several proposals in time. The evaluation meeting will take place shortly and the analysis formulated and reported to HQ and CON.

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

It was mostly a quiet month due to Ramadan, the truncated working hours and the extreme temperatures, which reached the upper 110s Fahrenheit this month.

The Embassy RSO and US Army conducted a "VIP Security Detail" training exercise at the station on June 20th. The scenario involved a VIP's visit to the facility, during which a medical issue took place; the exercise included a detailed assessment of the situation and the response to it.

ELMEC Engineering, the prime contractor for the construction of the Di-pole SW Antenna project, has completed the erection of the 4 towers. We expect the remaining work of grounding the towers and the guy wires to be completed by July 15, 2017.

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

(b) (6), IBB Engineer, arrived in the CNMI on June 16 to function as COR for the System-wide Electrical Testing and Maintenance project and for the completion of the Tower 8 guy cable replacement. Mr. Cai remained in the CNMI through the end of June and has extended his visit with a return scheduled for July 10.

The system-wide electrical testing and maintenance had a slow start due to delays in receipt of much of the specialized test apparatuses. ABM personnel arrived on June 13 and worked through the 10-day arrival delay of equipment. They managed to catch up and are on track to finish by July 17.

Contractor (b) (6) and his crew returned to Tinian on June 19 and, after a short delay in receiving the new socket extensions and hairpin anchor assemblies, finished the replacement of the 4 remaining guy cables on Tower 8. During the shipping delay, (b) (6) toured our Saipan facility to assess the task requirement for the recommended replacement of the counterweight and curtain and reflector array suspension cables.

Operations and maintenance contract staff continued with replacement of antenna tower hardware and have replaced several shackles on various curtain arrays. This effort has increased significantly since concerns were raised subsequent to a thorough antenna inspection performed by Hanson Engineering earlier this year.

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

Messrs. (b) (6), Facilities Supervisor; (b) (6), Supervisory Telecommunications Engineer; and (b) (6), Supervisory Radio Technician, went to Poro on June 15-16 for survey of transmitters and equipment. (b) (6) and (b) (6) went to Baguio on June 22-23 to install newly-fabricated metal frame mounting on the satellite dish of affiliate station, DWSK 96.7.

(b) (6) attended the Hands-On Competency-Based Training in Insulation Power Factor for Power Transformer and Substation Maintenance on June 7-9 in Quezon City.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) attended COMPTIA Security Training on June 19-23, 2017 in Makati City.

A fire drill was conducted at Tinang on June 23. All staff responded correctly to the alarm.

Visitors for the month included: seven (7) NGCP personnel who visited the station on June 8 for a meeting with Facilities personnel regarding installation of instrument transformers and metering at IBB Tarlac; and five (5) barangay captains and five (5) day care teachers who were on site to participate in a computer raffle sponsored by Aboitiz Power Corporation, the parent organization of our new commercial power contractor, Advent Energy, Inc. This community support grant project is one of the free-to-customer benefits provided by Aboitiz. The program enables Aboitiz to provide computers to a local school of our choosing, in the name of IBB, but at no cost to the station. Being that we have grant

agreements with five (5) barangays surrounding the station, Aboitiz agreed to hold a raffle each year of the power contract to donate computers to a different school. Assuming the agreement spans a 5-year period, all barangay day care centers will eventually receive new computers through this program.

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

The most time-consuming project at STTS this month was the IT refresh project, which extended from June 3 through July 1. There were 7 visiting IBB technicians of various IT disciplines. Most of the local computer infrastructure was replaced including servers and desktop PCs. Improvements were made in the wireless access to the system. Wiring to most areas was replaced. For the end-user, there were minor interruptions, but the final result was that systems worked normally again.

The most visible project this month was the Fire-fighter training and Safety inspection provided by two representatives of the “Escola Nacional de Bombeiros” of Portugal. Employees from Facilities, Antenna Maintenance, and other departments participated in classroom and hands-on training from June 18 – 23. The final class was a real fire scenario out in the antenna field at an old tuning hut, which involved many of the techniques learned throughout the week.

The antenna crew participated in some rescue rope training and partner rescue, in addition to the fire training. They also isolated and repaired coaxial line air leaks on the 9” line that was replaced earlier after the MW tower collapse. The contract antenna workers completed preventative maintenance on Tower 2, rust removal, priming and painting. They have moved on to tower 15 to complete the same actions.

The Power plant and HVAC technicians had a routine month of preventative maintenance and inspection. There were no power outages this month.

The B&G crews have finished their installation of the fence fabric around the inner compound. They are continuing to rebuild the outer perimeter fence, which is suffering due to spalling of the concrete-and-rebar construction of the fence posts, exposed to a seaside environment. Also, the corrosion control and re-painting of the fuel line from the Marine terminal to the storage tanks has been completed.

Preparations for the arrival of the Fuel tank cleaning & inspection crew were underway in June. The “sludge pump” necessary for the job arrived and has been inspected to determine peripheral needs. The crew is now scheduled to arrive July 24.

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

Station Manager, (b) (6) made a courtesy visit to (b) (6), the new Executive Director of Radio Thailand, and hosted a luncheon. Discussions were held on the agreement for the operation of the shortwave station in Udorn. (b) (6) was notified of IBB’s intent to take the first 10 year option as specified in the agreement and to continue broadcasting operations.

On June 27, 70 students and teachers from Udonthani Polytechnic College visited the Udorn site.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics team has provided oversight of a total of 48 shipments for the month of July. There were 14 shipments for our transmitting stations and 12 shipments to our Embassies that include Abuja, Kigali, Islamabad and Jerusalem. We also created 1 bureau shipment to Radio Sawa in

Baghdad. Lastly, the logistics team completed 14 deliveries from JCM to IBB (6 FedEx) and 1 pickup from IBB to JCM. As of July 27th, we have 4 open Requisitions pending shipment to their locations.

- This month we added 27 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition cost of \$118,121.95. We also deleted 73 Items from PIPS (none of the items were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition value of \$160,204.02.
- The Property Management Team is continuing to work on finding a new asset management system. The team has met with Real Assets Management (RAM) a second time to receive follow-up to previously unanswered questions. A decision will be made within the next couple of weeks on the purchase of a new system.
- The Property Management Team successfully auctioned off two trailers at the Emmetsburg site for \$13,000 dollars. With the auctioning off of these trailers, we created a cost savings \$45,000 dollars for TSI.
- CFO Auditors from Kearney & Company, P.C. visited Botswana and Sao Tome. The Property Management team answered some questions during their visit. We expect to receive their report with any findings next month.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan was developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As part of the third quarter allotment distribution, additional funds were identified from FY16 carryover. As a result, there were funds available for a complete turn-key project for the replacement of the Sao Tome MW Tower. The solicitation for Sao Tome MW Tower has been posted and responses are due August 19. Proposals for task orders (TO) for Botswana and Sao Tome short circuit coordination and arc flash studies and Botswana condition site survey have been received. We will only award the TO for Botswana and Sao Tome short circuit coordination and arc flash studies; the Botswana Condition Site Survey will be deferred due to cost. Requisitions were sent to CON for the procurement of Greenville HVAC Replacement and additional antenna work at Saipan.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017

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

(b) (6) (BBG Director of Finance) and a team of OIG Auditors visited the station on the 23rd to conduct a financial Audit. The team's audit consisted of property inventory and purchase processes. Ms. Ramos and the OIG Audit team left for Washington DC on the 27th.

On the 27th, the Station was paid a visit by (b) (6), CSP from State Department in Washington DC. (b) (6) was on site to conduct a survey to install Digi-Cam equipment in IBB owned vehicles. IBB Botswana vehicles fall under Chief of Mission authority, and with the installed equipment will they periodically transmit perceived erratic driving to a contractor in San Diego to analyze. The Station Manager will be the program manager of the project and will receive the report from the San Diego-based contractor to discuss with the identified driver. This is all done with no cost to BBG.

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

Duke Energy contractors completed the installation of the station's new low voltage power distribution system transformers and transfer switch. The system was tested and returned to service. Visitors for the month included (b) (6) with HAARP and (b) (6) with JMA Broadcast Technical Services, on-site for a tour.

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

We have been finally successful in getting our payments processed through e-invoicing system, which will speed up the payment to vendors, and allow us to track our payments without sending requests to FMC.

Station engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) conducted a two week training seminar on PLC and Computer programming at the Tinang transmitting station in the Philippines. The course was specially designed to reflect the hardware and software installed at IBB stations in regard to automation systems.

Station contracting officers had been active during the month to complete all duties required in the contract warrant recertification process, which is due in August. Applications and related documents have been completed and forwarded to CON.

The manufacturing of the new RF power modules for the Thales MW transmitter in Tajikistan was finished. The modules will be tested during the next trip in September.

In addition, the station has finished the manufacturing of AMC boards for IBB station in Kuwait. We expect the shipment of the boards by the beginning of August.

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

One of the 4 feedlines on the short wave curtain antenna A2 suffered a failure. These feedlines are made of strands of copper wires at a specific height to feed the dipoles, and have special spacing brackets to keep the lines from touching. The extreme heat caused the brackets and wires to expand and the bracket

to fail, resulting in arching and severed feedlines. The feed lines were repaired within a day, but it could have been repaired a lot quicker, within a few hours, if we had access to a boom truck, as the height of the tear in the feedline was under 50 feet. We are hoping to have a boom truck of our own within the next few months.

(b) (6) is our newest Radio Tech, hired from Sri Lanka. He arrived in country on the 7th of July and began work on the July 9th 2017.

(b) (6), Antenna and Transmitter Engineer from Washington D.C was on site Wednesday July 19 thru July 27th, 2017 to inspect the erection of SW Dipole antenna towers.

The dog days of summer continue to simmer the country with temperatures in the upper 110° Fahrenheit. We do not see any relief in sight for another 2 months. But the good news is that most of the Kuwaitis are vacationing in Europe or Asia, and the traffic situation is great throughout the summer.

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

July was anything but dull at the Marianas Stations. The month included visits from a military dignitary, system-wide electrical maintenance, planning for the antenna maintenance necessities cited by the recent Antenna Assessment for the Marianas Stations, and year-end procurement planning. Some details follow below:

Rear Admiral (b) (6), Commander, Joint Region Marianas and for all U.S. Naval Forces Marianas toured the Saipan Station on 3 July. Admiral (b) (6) was on Saipan for the Liberation Day and Independence Day Festivities. The tour was given by Mr. (b) (7)(A), IBB Resident Engineer, with assistance from the Saipan staff. Mr. (b) (6) took this opportunity to seek the Admirals support for the pending Inter-Agency Service Agreement (ISA) between IBB and NAVFAC Marianas which had seemed to be stalled on their end. On July 24, NAVFAC Marianas finalized the ISA, which became effective on July 27, 2017.

The System-wide Electrical Testing and Maintenance continued during the first half of July. IBB Engineer, (b) (6), remained on site to provide COR oversight. ABM staff was active at both stations during this time. Multiple power outages had to be orchestrated to allow for these maintenance activities. ABM's (b) (6) remained on Tinian to install a replacement surge arrestor which had been broken during testing of Tinian's Main Transformer. (b) (6) also completed the testing and calibrating of the Basler protective relays and provided some much needed OJT training to RRC personnel on transformer maintenance including, how to draw oil samples from the Pad Mounted transformers. ABM's (b) (6) and (b) (6) turned their efforts towards the Saipan Station. During the testing on Saipan ABM discovered a leaking bushing on Saipan's Main Transformer and advised IBB to replace the bushing as soon as possible. ABM provided a list of materials needed for this bushing replacement, and the station is in the process of acquiring those. Once received, an outside contract will be used to do the repairs. ABM Contractors (b) (6), and (b) (6), departed Saipan for CONUS on 15 July.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) coordinated efforts with (b) (6) to address the maintenance and repair issues raised by Hanson Engineering from their Antenna Inspections and Assessments. It was agreed upon to start these repair plans as soon as possible by initiating a contract modification for the Steve Lemay LLC contract to replace the antenna counter-weight and suspension cables on Saipan's antenna. To accomplish this, M&R 8116 and 1421 would be deferred until next fiscal year, thus allowing their funds to be reprogrammed for this antenna work. Follow-up plans for the repairs on Tinian were agreed upon;

they will probably be spread out over the next five years. The plan has IBB starting with the replacement of all counter-weight and suspension cables within the next two years, and finishing up with replacement of the remaining structural guy cables. The actual antennas and towers to be done first would be selected from those assets that are most heavily used, based on trends for the mission's broadcast schedule.

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

Station Manager (b) (5) hosted a meeting lunch on July 6 with (b) (6) the Poro Point Management Corporation Chairman, to discuss potential RFA broadcasts from the Philippines and the proposed Poro site closure. He later visited the station on the 26th to close the loop on discussion items.

(b) (6), traveled to the CNMI on July 18-22 to perform routine surveillance and interface with the O&M Site Supervisor. Shortly after his return, he traveled to La Union on the 28th where he toured the Poro Site and later hosted a contingent from the Philippine Air Force (PAF) to a representational dinner. This function was to honor the PAF for being such great hosts to the Poro Station since they overtook control of Wallace Air Base in 1991. Also in attendance were IBB's four (4) Poro employees, Facilities Supervisor (b) (6) and NSTS Supervisor (b) (6) from IBB Tinang, and (b) (6) from PPMC.

Supervisory Telecommunications Engineer (b) (6) and Radio Technician (b) (6) traveled to Poro on July 12-13, and Machinist (b) (6), on July 18, to survey Poro equipment for dismantling and packing.

NSTS Supervisor (b) (6) and CCTV Technician (b) (6) traveled to Antipolo on July 14 to perform semi-annual preventive maintenance and replace antenna heliax cable of VHF two-way radio link.

(b) (6) attended training on Administering Cisco Unified Communications Manager on July 24 to 26 in Makati. Also, from July 17 – 28, ten (10) Transmitter Plant technicians attended a PLC and Visual Basic Programming Development course conducted by (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the German Transmitting Station.

We also had two sets of visitors from the US Embassy. On July 7, (b) (6) the Information Management section arrived to work on local guard force two-way radio, repeater and antenna systems. Then on the 19th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) of the RSO's office visited to conduct local guard force and site inspections.

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

Facilities section had some unscheduled maintenance. The air conditioning unit on tower #1's base enclosure failed, and that over-temp damaged the EEPROM of one of the antenna control unit's circuit cards. Replacement was performed, with no broadcast time lost. Tower #9's underground cable lighting cable failed, but the problem was isolated to a bad splice, repairable in one of the manholes in the field.

An OIG inspection team from DC arrived late on 7/20 due to flight delays. However, with a long day on Friday 7/21, we were able to address all their concerns regarding equipment inventory. They left the island 7/22 with Regional Manager Charles Shepard for a similar inspection of Botswana Station.

The most visible project this month was the Diesel Fuel Tank Cleaning Project. The two main tanks and the small tank at the marine terminal were all cleaned. Four contractors from PED Botswana arrived July 22 to do the job. Because of the time constraints, and the high cost of shipping specialized equipment to Sao Tome, most of the large equipment was supplied by STTS. Examples include: air compressor, sludge pump, power-washer, hoses, bucket truck and winch, and sludge drums. Much supplemental manpower from STTS was required on two weekends, and during one work week to finish the job ahead of schedule on August 1. The tanks were VERY dirty, as they had not been cleaned in 12 years. Additionally, the crankcase re-burners had been in use for some time, due to inadequate methods to dispose of used crankcase oil locally. The re-burner's design had a flaw, which allowed some amount of used crankcase oil to flow into the large fuel tanks. Over time this oil became more and more concentrated, polluting the clean fuel. The re-burners are now off, and alternative methods of disposing of the oil are actively being sought. The small amount of remaining dirty fuel is isolated to tank #2, and a routine of dilution will be initiated to not only maintain the isolation, but over time reduce it to negligible amounts.

The Power plant and HVAC technicians had a routine month of preventative maintenance and inspection. There was a brief power outage this month, due to an error in valve placement by the visiting diesel tank cleaning crew. Fortunately, it occurred after broadcast hours, and was quickly remedied by Power plant technicians.

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

Mr. (b) (6), IBB Chief, Physical Security travelled to Thailand to conduct Security visit at Rasom site on July 18 and Udorn site on July 19-22.

July 10- 13, FSNs technician, (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Cambodia to perform TVRO system corrective maintenance at the IBB Affiliate Station in Siem Reap, Kampong Cham.

FSN Technicians (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Burma on July 11-14 and Malaysia on July 17-19 to perform TVRO system preventive and corrective maintenance at Public Affairs section, U.S. Embassy.

On July 20th, students and teachers from Nongbualumpoo Technical College toured Udorn the station.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics team has provided oversight of a total of 62 shipments for the month of August. There were 17 shipments to our Transmitting stations and 11 shipments to our Embassies including Freetown, Prague, Kabul and Ouagadougou. One bureau shipment was created for computer equipment to the VOA New York News Bureau. We incorporated four import shipments from Sao Tome, Baghdad and Kuwait. The last shipments consisted of items from the new VOA bureau in San Francisco and a customs clearance charge for a non-dip shipment to Kabul. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed 19 deliveries from JCM to IBB and 3 pickups from IBB to JCM. Currently we have 11 open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- A member of the Logistics Team attended the annual Department of Energy's Energy Exchange Conference in Tampa Florida. The Energy Exchange is an educational and networking forum for those seeking to expand their knowledge of building operations, energy security and management in

the federal sector. With more than 350,000 buildings and 600,000 vehicles on the road, the federal government is the nation's largest energy consumer. Federal agencies have a tremendous opportunity and an obligation to reduce energy, water, and petroleum use, as well as greenhouse gas emissions in their operations.

- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of August was 1,390, and a total of 690 items inventoried. The Team added 23 items to PIPS (1 item was a Capital Asset with a value of \$47,359.00) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$363,129.12. We also deleted 54 Items from PIPS (1 of the items were Capital Assets with a value of \$32,600) with a total acquisition value of \$149,077.91.
- The Property Management Team has concluded its search for a new automated property management system. After several meetings with the representative from Real Asset Management (RAM) the team has concluded that RAM would fit the needs of the agency. The Statement of Work was sent to CON and the contract has been awarded. An internal kick-off meeting has been held to get ready for implementation. The Property Management Team will look over policies and procedures to suggest changes, as needed, to meet the needs of the agency and the new property system.
- The Property Management Team will be auctioning off 56 brand new duo monitors (acquisition cost \$999.00) on the gsaxcess Website. We will also be scheduling next month a UNICOR pick-up of excess equipment from the Temple Hills warehouse.

M&R: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan was developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As part of the third quarter allotment distribution, additional funds were identified from FY16 carryover. As a result, there were funds available for a complete turn-key project for the replacement of the Sao Tome MW Tower. The solicitation for Sao Tome MW Tower was posted and responses were received on August 25; proposals were reviewed quickly and we are expecting a contract award soon. The task order (TO) for Botswana and Sao Tome short circuit coordination and arc flash studies was awarded and we are coordinating the site visits. The modification for additional antenna work in Saipan was also awarded and the work is scheduled to start at the end of October. The procurement for the Greenville HVAC Replacement was canceled and will be re-advertised at the beginning of FY18. As a result, we just sent a new TO for two more arc flash studies for Thailand and Tinang transmitting stations. The FY18 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations on June 26; responses to project Call have been received, and we'll start developing the 3-yr plan soon.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

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

On the 10th through the 20th, the Station was visited by T/EOS/N Civil/Structural Engineer Mr. (b) (6). The purpose of the visit was to fabricate and test a steel cage to be used by rigging personnel to grease the shortwave antenna guy wires.

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

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) and (b) (6) with the Wheatstone Corp., (b) (6) and (b) (6) with WTOP radio, and members of the Wayne County Amateur Radio Association.

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

We had the fire brigades at Biblis in August for a fire safety inspection, exercise and recommendations. As a result, building warden and floor plan with smoke detectors are to be placed at guard building for the fire fighters, etc.

(b) (6) completed mandatory course DAU CLC 57 – Performance Based Payments and several GSA Summer Camp training sessions; the training was needed to receive his renewed overseas contracting officer contract warrant.

(b) (6) completed training on Simplified Acquisition Procedures.

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

In anticipation of the arrival of the Kuwait Station Manager and family, the station personnel had been busy tidying up the station and surrounding area.

(b) (6) and family arrived in Kuwait on the night of the 26th of August to assume his role as Station Manager.

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

(b) (6) was on both sites from 20-August to 3-September for Microwave repairs and other IT related works. Saipan and Tinian technicians worked with Larry on restoring an old satellite dish to receive BBC downlink from IS-19 satellite to prepare for potential re-broadcast of BBC programming. A defective LNB was replaced, and after adjustments signal strength readings from the Transponders came up several dB points. Several workstations had Login & Outlook problems on Saipan. (b) (6) assisted the Station's IT rep resolve these problems and phone issues as well.

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

Newly hired Electric Power Equipment & Utilities Supervisor Mr. Juan Alfonso Rex C. Calagui reported to work August 9.

On August 2nd, (b) (6) from US Embassy Manila HR met with LES staff regarding SSS issues. After consultations in Tinang she traveled to Poro with Station Manager and admin manager to discuss separation benefits with Poro LES staff.

(b) (6) hosted a meeting with the local municipal and barangay officials on August 18.

(b) (6) traveled to CNMI on August 29 for CNMI stations oversight and to supervise the station operations during absence of REKTS Resident Engineer.

(b) (6), and (b) (6) attended the Fiber to the Premises Training on August 31 to September 1.

Other visitors from the US Embassy were (b) (6) of ESC on the 9th who worked on updating all station safety vaults' combinations and maintenance of gate 2 hard line door; and (b) (6) of RSO on the 17th who conducted inspection on station local guard force

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

On August 30th, marine tanker Anuket Ivory arrived to deliver 330,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Pumping started at 1400 on the 30th and finished at noon the following day. The cleanup was completed at 1500. During the mooring operation there was some damage to the chain that supports the buoys. The Station expects to assess the damage and evaluate the condition of all other chains in order to correct any anomalies before the next fuel delivery.

The B&G team, in addition to their daily routine, participated in the preparatory work for the fuel delivery operation. Some of them participated later in the fuel delivery as well. B&G riggers/painters continued corrosion control maintenance on tower #15, i.e. scraping, rust removal, priming and painting.

Riggers were extremely busy during the month of August. Besides their routine tasks and participation in the fuel offloading, they had some unscheduled maintenance work, including replacement of six corroded 7/8" galvanized maintenance cables on antennas #13, 14, and 15, and replacement of four burned contact fingers on switch #2 of antenna #06.

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

On July 20-21, 2017, the Facilities supervisor and Thailand Antenna Riggers were put through physical and endurance testing at the Sports Science Centre, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Udon Thani. All personnel passed the tests. The following tests were performed:

1. Physical examination
2. Anthropometry; BMI, WHR, Waist circumference
3. Cardio Respiratory Fitness; aerobic capacity, VO2 Max., Lung capacity
4. Flexibility
5. Muscular fitness & endurance

On occasion of National Science week, about 800 students from 8 schools visited the Udon station. This year's National Science week was a huge success.

Fire Training was held on August 22-24. The training was provided by the Udon Thani Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department.

CPR, AED, and First Aid training was held on August 30- September 1. Training was provided by Udon Thani Provincial Hospital.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics team has provided oversight of a total of 47 shipments for the month of September. There were 12 shipments to our transmitting stations and 10 shipments to our Embassies including Freetown, Kinshasa, Haiti, Kabul and Bamako. There was one import containing music equipment from Seoul, Korea and 5 total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipment consisted of shipping some HP servers to Norfolk. We incorporated four import shipments from Sao Tome, Baghdad and Kuwait. Lastly, the Logistics team completed 15 deliveries from JCM to IBB and three pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 9/28/17, we have 6 open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of September were 1,817 and a total of 618 items inventoried. The Team added 43 items to PIPS with a total Acquisition Cost of \$55,662.51. We also deleted 111 Items from PIPS with a total acquisition value of \$151,199.74.
- The Property Management Team initiated its first meeting with MRI solutions and completed some preliminary data. The Team designated a project lead for the transition to Real Asset Management (RAM). As the team moves forward, meetings with the Accountable Officers (AOs) and Property Custodian Officers (PCOs) will be conducted to brief them on the upcoming changes and training.

M&R Plan: The FY 17 M&R Plan was approved in November 2016. The plan was reviewed and a spending plan was developed to accommodate emergency projects for Sao Tome and Greenville. As part of the third quarter allotment distribution, additional funds were identified from FY16 carryover. As a result, there were funds available for a complete turn-key project for the replacement of the Sao Tome MW Tower. The solicitation for Sao Tome MW Tower was posted and responses were received on August 25; that tower replacement contract was awarded in late September. Other acquisitions in September included a task order for short circuit coordination and arc flash studies for Thailand and Tinang. The FY18 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations on June 26. All the responses to that Project Call were received this month. A draft FY18 3-yr plan has been developed and submitted for review and comment.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2017

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reported no significant events in September.

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

Contractors with Slatercom Lighting Solutions began replacement of the existing tower lighting system with a new LED based system.

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

Station welcomed (b) (6) and (b) (6), who visited IBB Germany for a 4-week IT refreshment in September. The upgrade and accomplishment of this refresh cycle included hardware replacement for Lampertheim office only, but also software upgrade for Biblis office environment. We thank (b) (6) for their professional expertise and the assistance provided to each of us.

On September 21th, IBB Germany was visited by American Embassy Minister Counselor for Management, (b) (6), and American Consulate Frankfurt Management Officer, (b) (6). Both individuals were introduced to the Germany station staff, IBB Germany's activities at both sites, as well as Germany's technical and logistic support activities in the Middle East, Ear East, Africa, Balkan, Affiliates and Automation Networks. In particular, the technical aspects, skills and mission's initiatives seemed to catch the interest of the diplomatic State staff members.

Satellite staff member (b) (6) was on TDY to Headquarters to help out at NCC. He also assisted in sorting out and upgrading several wiring issues during his stay in D.C.

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

It was an extremely busy month as staff pushed through many last-minute procurements before the end of FY17. The budget section worked many hours preparing reports and obligating funds for several FM contracts. One contract seemed to take up most of the Administrative sections time, and at times it seemed (b) (6)'s new contract would not be executed before the end of the month, but with a lot of assistance from TSI HQ, the contract was signed on the proverbial 11th hour.

Our longtime Administrative Assistant, (b) (6) submitted his resignation. (b) (6) last day was on the 16th, and the station held a luncheon to see him off. Although (b) (6) left at a critical time, the remaining members of the Admin section pulled together and successfully closed the books for FY17 on-time.

The Station welcomed new employee Antenna Technician (b) (6), who hails from Sri Lanka.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived onsite from Germany on the 21st, and quickly started work. (b) (6) and (b) (6) will be here for 3 weeks repairing the automation system for our 419F transmitters, and will also conduct a one week PLC training course for most of our Radio Technicians. They have already made great progress, and have found several tuning and related problems within our transmitters, which have

been addressed by the TX staff. Unfortunately, and quite amazingly I might add, it was during the process of addressing problems associated with (b) (6) and (b) (6) work, that we discovered the station does not have a set of much needed technical manuals for our 419F's.

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

Philippine Station's IT Supervisor, (b) (6), wrapped up his visit to the Marianas. With the help of the O&M Contractor staff, (b) (6) rehabilitated the station Microwave Systems, which were in bad condition from corrosion. (b) (6) also decommissioned defective 5.8GHz radio from both Saipan and Tinian, reprogrammed the 5.02GHz radio to 5.8GHz and installed the newly reprogrammed 5.02 radio in the same location of the defective 5.8GHz, and temporarily installed new 2.4GHz radios in place of the 5.02GHz. Having all three radios online will provide the entire system with redundancy.

(b) (6) worked with IT&E, our IT provider, to install and test the new double jacketed Ethernet cable feeder on Tinian Tower 1, and to fine tune station routers for the new upgraded bandwidth from 6Mbps to 12Mbps for the 152/Saipan automation/Tinian automation networks.

(b) (6) also provided training to the new O&M LAN Administrator on the station 152/automation network, microwave system, and automation system (including the SCADA). Lastly, we worked with him on tracking a satellite using a TVRO dish and taught him how to properly adjust the feed to eliminate cross pole frequencies. This was instrumental in preparing a spare TVRO Dish to IS-19 for future BBC Programing.

Tinian's B&G staff was busy with antenna repairs to many of the antennas, and continued replacing shackles noted on the Hanson Antennas Assessment Report. Towers 6 and 7 were the focus of those activities.

Saipan security camera next to Main Gate perimeter fence had several problems including wiring inside mast. The wiring problems were corrected, but still had poor images on the monitor. On 23 September, technicians, with the help of Facilities Department, replaced the camera using the Genie Articulating Boom. The images were vastly improved after the new camera was installed.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

On September 14-15, the station conducted its annual Team Building Activity in Baguio City, which included an award ceremony on the 14th.

The station hosted a representational dinner to meet local officials from the Bureau of Fire Protection and Chief of Police on September 19.

The station received information on the plan to broadcast BBC programs via Tinang transmitters for the B17 Season. Satellite receivers by BBC from Babcock International were shipped for this purpose. However, BBC is exploring the possibility of starting their Korean broadcast before the B17 scheduled start date, and inquired if the station could downlink via AS5 direct before getting the shipped BBC receivers. A positive response was provided to their request, and the station has prepared accordingly. Awaiting details from Washington on the AsiaSat 5 virtual channel assignment and time-slot for the BBC World Service Korean.

Embassy Medical Unit conducted CPR Training and administered flu vaccines on the week of September 18, both for Tinang and Poro employees.

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

Our 500-watt FM transmitter failed on September 21. The 200 watts legacy version was installed in its place and the unit was brought to the station for repair.

The HVAC technicians, in addition to their routine work, replaced two Marvair A/C's at the Warehouse and the Power Plant and one split-type A/C in the residence No. 2. They also replaced the motor and the pump of the recycle system at the swimming pool.

Antenna Maintenance team set up the spider system on antenna #15 (screen side) in order to rebuild the antenna. They replaced five vertical and forty-four horizontal wire assemblies. They continued carrying on the preventive maintenance on tower #15, scraping and removing rust.

The B&G crew continues with regular duties. They conduct rust control, painting, and securing some structures in the compound and provide support to other sections as needed.

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

(b) (6), Assistant Regional Security Officer, and (b) (6), Special Agent Assistant Regional Security Officer from Embassy Bangkok, visited Udorn on September 20.

September 17-23, TX Plant Supervisor, (b) (6) and Senior Radio Technician, (b) (6) traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to perform preventive and corrective maintenance on the FM transmitter and TVRO system at the IBB affiliate transmitter site.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight for a total of 63 shipments in the month of October. There were 18 shipments to our transmitting stations and 6 shipments to our Embassies, including Freetown, Haiti, Kabul and the Ukraine. The Team coordinated 4 bureau shipments to New York, MBN and 9 total FedEx shipments. The "other" shipments consisted of shipping digital tiger monitors to various schools around the US. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed 17 deliveries from JCM to IBB and 4 pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 10/30/17, we have 10 open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team total transactions in PIPS for the month of October was 1395 and a total of 469 items inventoried. The Team added 44 items to PIPS (no items were a Capital Asset) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$236,672. We also deleted 101 Items from PIPS (no items were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition value of \$325,921.
- The Property Management Team will be sending a representative to the offices of MRI Software in Des Moines, Iowa to assist the project team with the process of preparing the new RAM property

management software for the initial testing phase. Our goal is to have an initial test by mid-to-late November 2017.

M&R: The FY17 M&R account closed out the year with approximately a \$422K carryover, mostly from inability to award the HVAC replacement project for Greenville and excess funds from the Sao Tome tower award. The FY18 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations in late June. All responses were received in September, and some additional projects were added in October. A draft FY18 3-yr plan was developed and submitted for review and comment. After meeting with TSI management, some changes were incorporated into the plan. The approved plan is expected to be approved the TSI Director and forwarded to the station managers soon.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2017

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

On the 16th through the 17th, the Station was visited by (b) (6) and crew from State Department to install the Smith System Cameras on the Government Vehicles.

On the 25th, the Regional Station Manager Mr. (b) (6) travelled to Gaborone to renew his OpenNet access card.

Starting on the 26th, the Station was visited for approximately two weeks by (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6), IT Technicians from TSI Headquarters. The purpose of their visit was to install the IBB Wireless Internet System.

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

Mr. André Mendes visited the site on 10/27/17 and met with the staff.

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

The RPSO at the Consulate finally got the workforce contractor selected and awarded the contract. The current contractor won the bid.

RSO/Frankfurt - MS Kerry Crockett and A/RSO (b) (6) visited the Lampetheim site on Oct 11, 2017. BBG's Chief of Security Div. - (b) (6) - visited Germany stations on October 30 for security assessment as well. They inspected the facilities and the Safe Room at both Lampetheim and Biblis. Our safe rooms are not yet equipped to meet the DOS security standards. Our staff will get it done and comply. RSO/Frankfurt will assist in obtaining MREs, etc. Our Selectone alarm system in Lampetheim is not functioning effectively, and will need to be replaced.

The recruitment for the Admin. Mgt. Specialist position is still on-going. HR Berlin has not received a qualified applicant from the internal job announcement on the first round. The internal announcement is still open until filled. In the meantime, HRO recommended that we go to the local manpower company; thus far we have still not received any applications.

Two groups of our technical staff were on travel during October. (b) (6) were in Tajikistan for two weeks. (b) (6) and (b) (6) were in Kuwait for over five weeks to perform system automation maintenance and provide programmers training; their trip had to be extended to address a long-standing issue with one of the station's transmitters.

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

It has been another busy month for the Station, and unfortunately we had to make some changes to our work week due to Kuwait labor laws, which prohibit employees from working more than 8 hours per day.

As a result, the Station implemented a new 8 hour day, 48 hour work week schedule. The Station's normal work week is now 0700-1530 Saturday-Thursday.

On the 2nd, Station staff tested our firefighting system, and discovered it was not functioning correctly. The problem was isolated to a defective pressure expansion tank, which was replaced with a new unit from stock. While repairing the firefighting system, we discovered that our potable water system is in rough shape. The chlorination and PH units have been completely bypassed, and will require replacement, as will the water filtration unit. A water treatment company was asked to come out and provide a quotation for the repair of our system, which will be used to provide cost estimates for an eventual M&R project.

For several years, the Station has been experiencing high ambient air temperatures in and around the TX area. The Station has an existing air conditioning maintenance contract with a local vendor, who has been serving the Station for almost 9 years. They recommended we install additional air conditioning units; however, we decided to invite another vendor to the Station, and asked them to evaluate our current system, and provide a recommendation on how best to resolve the high ambient air temperature issue, which they did on the 16th. To say we were all shocked by their findings would be an understatement. Our entire chilled water and air conditioning systems need extensive maintenance. The water within our chilled water system looks like used motor oil, and all of our internal evaporator coils are clogged with dirt, mold and fungus. Water testing revealed that high levels of corrosion have occurred within all chilled water piping, and much of the piping may need to be replaced. Also, we discovered all of the air filters for our various air handling units were removed some time ago as a cost-savings initiative. The station has started work on resolving many of the easy-to-fix issues.

The TX section completed installing AMC modification for all transmitters, which should reduce our power consumption by 30%.

The ARSO visited on the 26th and conducted duck and cover drills, and performed a routine physical security inspection. Several deficiencies were noted, and will be addressed later in the year.

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

The Marianas Station dealt with a tropical depression near-miss on 17 October, and both sites utilized their emergency backup power generators during the storm. The storm was typically described as a Banana Typhoon because only banana trees were damaged by the winds; thankfully, only minor antenna damage to Tinian antennas 280L and 295L resulted from the storm. Those antennas were repaired within a few days.

Tinian's B&G staff focused its work force on Antenna tower 9, replacing 8 corroded shackles on the spreader bar as noted in the Hanson Antennas Assessment Report. Also, a total of 103 corroded bolts and nuts were replaced and then coated with rust reformer and paint.

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

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to Poro on October 25-26 for normal oversight, along with Station Principal Class B Cashier (b) (6), for cashiering matters.

On October 25, 19 students from the University of San Carlos, Cebu City visited the station for their educational tour.

Based on the annual statistical report, the station reduced fuel usage by 16% in FY17 compared to FY16 and 28% as compared to FY15. Overall we saved around 2,000 gallons of fuel in FY17.

On October 12, PTS Interview and Selection Panel conducted interviews of applicants for the Antenna Equipment Mechanic Foreman, LES-6 position. (b) (6) was selected to fill this vacancy, effective October 29.

PTS Timekeepers, (b) (6) and (b) (6), attended the Time and Attendance Refresher's Course at Embassy Manila on October 13.

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

On October 9th, (b) (6) arrived at the site to assist the rigging team in the total replacement of all guy wires of the remaining 600kW MW tower. The team rebuilt nine corroded guy wires from the first to the third level, and included replacement and greasing of dead ends, thimbles, shackles, and alumoweld wires. Because this is a MW tower, the work was quite complex. Each guy assembly consists of 3 or 4 lengths of wire to cut to length, and 6 to 8 preforms and thimbles per guy assembly. It was quite a relief to see this job completed, with no problems or safety incidents.

Rigger painters completed tower #015 preventive maintenance with a final coat of international orange and white on alternate sections.

Work has begun on the restoration of the Marine Terminal buoys. The chains are totally corroded and a shackle failed in the last delivery, therefore at least one (and preferably all three) must be restored before the next delivery.

The 2500' fuel hose for the Marine Terminal had failed, and a new one is sourced and in the process of being purchased, with the assistance of Dave Evans at Headquarters.

We had a ceremony for many FSNs who have reached their 20th year of service to STTS.

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

Operations were normal for the month of October with one exception. The station received a request from the Thai government to carry live broadcasts of the ROYAL CREMATION CEREMONY OF HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ BOROMMANATHBOBITRA. The broadcasts were carried from October 25 through October 29. Some VOA programming was preempted in order to accommodate the request.

Station Manager (b) (6), his wife (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited Thailand at the end of the month. It was great to see them and we all enjoyed their visit.

The monsoon season has finally ended and the station is preparing to perform antenna maintenance and other projects which were delayed due to heavy rain. The daily temperature has dropped and is a big relief to all.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics team has provided oversight of a total of 48 shipments for the month of November. There were 17 shipments to our Transmitting stations and 4 shipments to our Embassies including Juba, Djibouti, and Dar es Salaam. The Team coordinated 2 bureau shipments to New York and Baghdad, and 4 total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of an award plaque, crating mounts for storage, some equipment being sent out to Jampro Antennas Inc., and Eaton batteries being sent to Vestek Systems in MD. Lastly, the Team completed 12 deliveries from JCM to IBB and 5 pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 11/30/17, we have 7 open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team total transactions in PIPS for the month of November was 849 and a total of 397 items inventoried. The team added 45 items to PIPS with a total Acquisition Cost of \$200,127.68; we also deleted 20 Items from PIPS with a total acquisition value of \$99,192.17. No addition or deletion of Capital Assets occurred this month.
- The Property Management Team has continued working with the Real Asset Management (RAM) team to complete the property management software update and get ready for the initial test. Our Property Team representative completed his TDY trip to the RAM offices in Des Moines, Iowa to assist the RAM Project Team. The representative will continue to work with the RAM team to ensure that the software will meet the BBG’s requirements.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director this month. Based on the projected program budget, TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The approved and prioritized M&R program plan was forwarded to the station managers for review and comment on 11/13/2017. After receiving comments from the station managers, some changes were incorporated into the plan. Based on the current Momentum M&R program balance (28%), TSI management has begun the process of transferring funds to transmitting stations for 8 out of the 25 projects for FY18 Quarter 1. At Headquarters, the package for the A&E IDIQ solicitation was submitted to CON. We are also working on the procurement package for the Greenville Chiller Replacement and the Tinang Fire Alarm Replacement projects. In addition, a task order for antenna inspections at Tinang has been finalized and will be submitted to CON soon. FY18 M&R Plan Look Ahead: Continue awarding the remaining FY18 prioritized projects, depending on replenishment of program balance.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017

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

November was one of the busiest months for the Station's entire transmitter section due to the political situation in Zimbabwe. The technical staff had their hands full in making sure the programs covering the events unfolding in the troubled southern African country were aired per the short-notice schedule. The station technical personnel and the equipment showed 100% readiness in carrying out these broadcasts. Bot-A and Bot-4 are currently running a 24/7 broadcast schedule into the region, and thanks to the technicians and the transmitters, we have not lost any broadcast time due to equipment failure. What a Team!

On the 5th through the 17th, the Station was visited by (b) (6), IBB Sao Tome Rigger Supervisor. (b) (6) visit was to inspect guy wires on the TCI shortwave antenna towers and inspect the rest of the Station's antenna systems.

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

(b) (6) with Continental Electronics visited the station and performed a site survey in preparation for the installation of the 419 Continental transmitters. Other visitors included (b) (6) with WITN television and several members of the Pitt Community College Engineering Technology department.

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

We had a staff meeting on November 16 and the station's traditional Thanksgiving lunch on November 23, prepared by our American colleague – (b) (6) & colleagues.

The new workforce contract has been awarded, starting November 1, 2017. The same contractor has won the award, which will be for 5 years.

At the suggestion of (b) (6), Chief of Physical Security Div. of BBG, another fence line is required for Lampertheim transmitting station around the antenna field. The letter requesting permission to install the fences has been sent to the landlord, with a copy to RSO - AmConGen/Frankfurt. (b) (6) has also made recommendations concerning minor security/safety issues; both sites have started the corrective action, i.e. replacing door locks, putting up emergency signs, and testing the alarm systems for test drills at Lampertheim.

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

The weather in November was very nice in Kuwait, and each day more and more camping tents are springing up in the desert surrounding the station. With the much cooler weather, outdoor work has accelerated, and rigging staff are back on the towers, performing scheduled curtain antenna inspection and maintenance.

Ms. (b) (6), an Embassy Security Attaché, held two sessions of Security briefings at the Station, the first one being on November 1. For the convenience of shift technicians and chauffeurs, a second session was held on November 7.

Congratulations to (b) (6), who was selected for the vacant Transmitter Plant Supervisor position on 12 November.

Responding to the "Antenna Transmission Line Foundation" solicitation, nine vendors visited the site on November 20.

Air Conditioning company, Chiller Tech, provided us with a report on chilled water from each (of three) system for a chemical lab analysis. They strongly recommended performing immediate water treatment.

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

Contractor Steve Lemay LLC arrived at Saipan station on 06 November to start the counter-weight and rigging wire replacement project. Mr. (b) (6) provided oversight for the project throughout November. The project required shifting of Saipan's Day Shift broadcasts to Tinian. Rome Research staff supplied excellent logistics support and was able to arrange for fabrication of new counter-weight adjustment apparatus found to be needed at project startup.

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, visited the Marianas Station November 24 thru 29. On November 25, (b) (6) presented Saipan's (b) (6) a Service Appreciation Award for nearly 20 years of dedicated support of Operations and Maintenance at the Marianas Stations.

On November 28, (b) (6) hosted a semi-annual review meeting with Rome Research Corporation representatives, (b) (6). (b) (6), IBB's Resident Engineer, also attended.

(b) (6), PTS Telecom Engineer, arrived on Saipan November 28 for various IT and SCADA related projects. (b) (5) oversaw the installation of new Rad 5.02 GHz microwave system and prepared for the installation of the new double-walled day tank for the Saipan site's emergency generator system.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in November:

To further strengthen partnerships with the surrounding village populous, the station hosted medical mission on November 22nd. Local villagers were offered medical check-ups, dental care and free medications. The medical doctors, nurses and dentists providing the services were from Concepcion Medical team and Philippines National Police medical unit. Congressman Noel Villanueva provided food and refreshments for the event. In total over 200 persons received medical attention.

On November 11, (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended Embassy-hosted Veterans Day Celebration at American Cemetery in Taguig.

The station hosted a total of 129 students, instructors and tour coordinators from a number of universities, who visited for educational tours on November 16th and 28th.

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

During this month, the Power plant technicians safely and successfully accomplished their regular preventative maintenance and inspection, and no accident or power outage occurred during the month. They also performed valve lash on the generators #3 and #5 and replaced a defective in-let fuel meter on the generator #2.

HVAC Section supported the Power Plant crew replacing the fuel meter on the generator #2. They also emptied and glued the liner in the swimming pool and refilled it back. They replaced the capacitor in the fire alarm system at motor pool.

The Antenna Maintenance Section had some unscheduled tasks besides the regular inspections and routine jobs. They corrected an abnormality (over temperature) and fault indication on antennas #02 and #04. The fault was due to a failed air conditioner unit (M28) on the antenna's base enclosure. They also replaced refurbished rings contacts, fingers and copper plates on antenna #01 RF switch 12.

A major refurbishment of the STL antenna located at National Radio in the downtown area was completed in November. This tower is necessary to relay the National Radio programming to the Transmitting Station, that we are required by our lease agreement to broadcast on a MW transmitter, for domestic listening. The Antenna Maintenance Section replaced corroded guy wires on the first level, and repaired the guys on the second level. Also, they replaced big-grip dead ends (preforms), thimbles and shackles and greased the guy cables.

Rigger painters are carrying on with rust removing and corrosion control on the tower #01. They have primed up to the first platform.

The Station welcomed the following visitors this month:

- November 17: (b) (5) Deputy Chief of Mission and (b) (6), both from the US Embassy Libreville (Gabon). This was a familiarization trip to Sao Tome for the new Chief of Mission.
- Nov. 25 – Dec. 2: (b) (6) and (b) (6), IBB Security. (b) (5) were collecting security data and fingerprints on all personnel and contractors that access the site.
- Nov. 28 – Dec. 2: (b) (6) and (b) (6), US Embassy Accra (Ghana). (b) (6) focused on physical security issues such as cameras, fencing and guard force.

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

During the month the station was visited by [REDACTED] with State Department Security Services to inspect the station's security guard services. He was accompanied by (b) (6), ARSO Thailand and (b) (6). No concerns were noted but there were discussions on reducing the number of guards at the Udon facilities and the FSO housing compound as a cost saving measure. Further discussion will be held on this idea before any changes are made.

Interviews were conducted with 10 applicants to fill the transmitting plant secretary position at Udon. A candidate was selected and will start on January 7, 2018.

During the month (b) (6) from URS/AECOM arrived in Thailand to conduct the arc flash study at the Rasom and Udon sites. All went well and the study was concluded as scheduled.

(b) (6), the designated new office manager for the Affiliates office in Bangkok, visited Thailand during the month. (b) (6) is scheduled to assume the office responsibilities in February 2018.

The rains have stopped in Thailand and the temperature has dropped, which is a relief to us all. Dry season projects are in process.

Preparations are underway to send two Udon staff to Cyprus to inspect the contractor's work to replace the medium wave towers' climbing ladders. They will depart Thailand on or about December 15 and return around December 24.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of 43 shipments for the month of December. Fifteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and six shipments were designated to Embassies including Haiti, Abuja, Kinshasa and Brazzaville. The Team coordinated three bureau shipments going to LA, Seoul, and Dubai, and one FedEx shipment. The "other" shipments consisted of sending laptops to Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Greenville. We also had a FedEx invoice for Comet capacitors going to Tinian. Lastly, The Logistics Team completed eight deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 12/29/17, we have eight open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- In December, the Logistics Team started working with the White House Council for Environmental Quality on the BBG's annual energy report. Currently completed is the BBG's Cover Letter to the OMB Director, the BBG's GHG Inventory Management Plan, and the BBG's Inventory Qualitative Statement. Once the energy data report is completed and all documents are reviewed and signed, we will submit the report to the Department of Energy NLT 31 January 2018.
- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of December was 267, and a total of 101 items inventoried. The Team added 20 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$15,523.16. We also deleted 15 Items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$51,048.95) with a total acquisition value of \$77,854.07.
- The Property Management Team has continued working with Real Asset Management (RAM) team, to complete the property management software update and prepare for the initial test. The Team is hoping to have the new software ready for initial training by mid-February.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2018

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The Zimbabwe change of leadership saga continues, and the Botswana Transmitting Station is continuing to send 24/7 broadcasts into the country. Two transmitters, namely Bot-A and Bot-4, have been broadcasting since November 15th and it is pleasing to report that they have performed exceptionally well. Kudos to the technical staff for keeping these transmitters in tiptop condition.

(b) (6) traveled to the U.S. during the month of December for contract training and consultations at headquarters. While the Manager was there, both the B&G and Driver Services Option II contract extensions were signed. The cleaning services contract was advertised and numerous proposals were submitted; the award will be made in January.

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

(b) (6) with the Wheatstone Corp. toured the facility with several guest broadcasters.

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

On, December 29th the station endured an evening ice/rain storm. Though the temperature outside was about +5 degrees, several unprotected satellite dishes were covered with ice. After a thorough inspection of the sites satellite dishes, no issues were discovered and the SW antenna was not damaged due to the additional weight on the copper. We did lose the feed by MBN Cairo on Eutelsat 10 while removing the ice.

The satellite earth station crew was busy upgrading parameters to the PNC NG and ADTEC EN-31 systems required for the new IOR B-Pol uplink. A set of 700W C-band CP11 HPAs were tested with the preliminary uplink parameter to test the HPA performance for the dummy load. The results did not indicate any abnormality and the station is ready to go.

The 5-year-security recertification for FSNs/PSAs was completed by the RSO this month. Also, the installation of the safety climb for the antenna towers project in Cyprus was completed. The riggers and Christoph Cholewa performed the inspection at the Cape Greco site.

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

The month of December was mostly a quiet one with staff away on Annual or "Use or Lose" Leave. Resident Engineer, (b) (6) left on a well-earned Annual Leave to the US on December 19th. Those who stayed behind cheered as the Management Notice was received mentioning December 31 to be a holiday declared by the Kuwait Government in addition to January 1.

Very costly toast! On December 24th, a Technician was toasting his bread in the transmitter area, with a toaster that had been removed from the kitchen. The thermostat was set to high and left unattended. The toast burnt and fumes began to rise, which activated our VESDA fire alarm system, and shutdown 4160v

to KWT-5 and 6; FM200 gas was also released. We lost a total of 50 minutes of broadcast, and will have to spend \$1000.00 for replacement FM200 gas.

Alpha Multimodel Co., who won the MCR kitchen Refurbishment project, mobilized themselves and started working, but seem to be moving at a glacial pace. The contractor was not able to complete the job within the 30 days stipulated in the contract.

Our fire alarm system contractor (Specialized Security Systems) tested the alarm and performed their routine maintenance on December 18th.

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

(b) (6) worked in various capacities throughout the history of our stations, from the initial construction through each expansion, and was instrumental in the station's conversion to fully automatic operations. Truly a key player and team leader in each of these endeavors, (b) (6) met every challenge with a smile and has provided and fostered maintenance excellence, which spans each of those challenges. (b) (6)

Replacement of all of Saipan's antennas' counter-weights, curtain array cables, sheaves and blocks was completed on December 5 by Steve Lemay LLC. The project was overseen by (b) (6), PE and WDC/COR for the contract. Saipan's maintenance staff provided excellent logistics and ground support while Tinian station covered daily broadcasts for the Saipan mission throughout the project.

(b) (6), PTS Telecom Engineer, remained in the Marianas stations until his departure on December 20. While in the Marianas, (b) (6) replaced/reconfigured and expanded the inter-site microwave equipment to improve the signal strength for this vital IT link. (b) (6), also assisted with the installation of a new day tank for Saipan's emergency generator system. (b) (6) completed preliminary SCADA work ahead of its expansion contracted with Caltrol December 11 through 19. Larry worked with (b) (6) of (b) (6) of Hawthorne Caterpillar, successfully completing the SCADA expansion. The expansion allows for greater control and improved system condition status at the remote operations site in the Philippines.

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

The transmitting station's guards encountered 9 fully armed Philippine Army soldiers who entered the station land from Murcia village. Soldiers conducted foot patrol and used our perimeter road. The following week, we spoke to the commander of the unit and their official response was this was a military exercise to test reaction of local population when armed soldiers are in their villages.

(b) (6) accompanied by the representatives from Transmitter, Facilities, and Administrative units attended the annual High Frequency Broadcasters' meeting on December 6. Meeting was held at the FEBC Events Hall in Pasig City.

On December 12, NSTS staff with (b) (6) distributed bags of groceries, fruits and clothing to elderly and disabled villagers in five surrounding barangays as part of the station's holiday gift-giving program

On December 14, (b) (6) from ARSO U.S. Embassy Manila conducted a post-to-post inspection of the local guard force.

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

The most interesting and unusual thing that occurred this month was the announcement by the Sao Tome and Principe government that they were changing our time zone from GMT to GMT+1, starting January 1, 2018. No plausible explanation was given.

On December 5th, SAO-3 would not come up for the 0500 hours broadcast due to a defective Mitre gear in the Final power amplifier circuit. As a result, 0.75 hours of Net B1 English to Zimbabwe were lost. The replacement parts had been back-ordered from the manufacturer, but upon inquiry they were suddenly found to be available. STTS received them via air freight and the parts were installed without further loss of time.

On December 8th, SAO-2 shut down due to defective power supply and lost 0.50 hours of Net F3 Hausa program.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December:

December 15-25, 2017, (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Cyprus to conduct the inspection of the safety ladders installation on the MW antenna at the Cyprus cape Greco site; they also attended a meeting with station management.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty-five shipments for the month of January. Twelve shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and four shipments were designated to Embassies including Kabul, Durban, Seoul and Prague. The Team coordinated two bureau shipments going to LA and OCB in FL, and eight total FedEx shipments. There were also three imports from the Philippines, Germany, and Tinian. The “other” shipments consisted of sending an HPA from MBN Dubai to CPI Europe Ltd and a Cisco 3560 to JMC in Amman. Lastly, The Logistics Team completed four deliveries from JCM to IBB and zero pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 1/29/18, we have eight open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Broadcasting Board of Governors’ FY 2017 GHG (Greenhouse Gas) and energy submission was completed and submitted to the Federal Energy Management Program, U.S. Department of Energy, on January 31, 2018.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of January was 1,858 and a total of 1,293 items inventoried. The Team added 51 items to PIPS (2 were Capital Assets) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$140,834.38. We also deleted 30 Items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$51,048.95) with a total acquisition value of \$312,677.89.
- The Property Management Team is in the final stages of testing the new software solution for property management. BBG’s rep is continuing to work with Real Assets Management (RAM) to ensure the software solution is operational and to start the onsite training required to move from

the test phase to live system. The Property Management Team is hoping to be ready for initial training on the new software by mid-February 2018.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. Funds were transferred to the transmitting stations for 8 out of the 25 projects for FY18 Quarter 1. To date, the M&R program has received 35% of the estimated budget allotment. The procurement package for Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$250k) was submitted to CON. In addition, the procurement package for Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k) was submitted, subject to availability of funds (\$0 requisition). Emergency funds were provided to the Greenville Transmitting Station to replace a gas switch serving transmitter GB-9. Kuwait Transmitting Station's chilled water system is experiencing chemical treatment maintenance issues; ongoing investigation will likely lead to an emergency M&R FY18 project. There are three major projects, the FY18 award of which could be jeopardized if a budget is not passed soon. The projects are: Cyprus Phase 2 Antenna Work; Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems; and Contract Modification for Antenna Work at CNML.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2018

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The Regional Station Manager, (b) (6), returned from Annual Leave and training on January 1st and attended the Country Team Meeting on the 16th.

The Botswana summer is in full swing and the locals are coming out to enjoy the heat. A cobra was lurking in the SIS UPS room. The workers were able to remove it and release it into the wild.

We continued our broadcasting into Zimbabwe during the month. Transmissions continued as normal except for a minor transmitter malfunction due to components failures. The broadcast surge demanded more power from the local power company, which resulted in a 75% increase in the January power bill.

The completion of the tractor shed expansion and visitor parking cover construction is now complete and the B&G crew will continue installing the lighting and compressor lines as part of their scheduled work.

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

Operations during the month of January were unusually challenging. The Transmitting Station experienced two snow events that made travel to and from the station somewhat difficult. As temperatures plummeted to 3 degrees F and below, utility power rates skyrocketed, necessitating the use of the station's auxiliary generator.

On January 6th, while running the generator in standalone mode, all power was lost to the facility. A burned medium voltage connector feeding the CEMCO 240 VAC switchgear was identified as the issue causing the generator to detect a ground fault. The main substation fuses were disconnected and power was restored. As the CEMCO transmitters were previously removed from the broadcast schedule, there was no impact to the broadcasting mission. The defective switch was replaced and the system was returned back to normal.

On January 15th, the station was operating the generator in standalone mode and attempted to return operation back to normal power, but the transfer was unsuccessful. As the fuel supply became a concern, the generator contractor was contacted immediately to diagnose and resolve the problem. During this time, the station again lost power while the switchgear was being normalized. The Final resolution of the problem is still pending.

Transmitter GB-4 was removed from service during the month to replace the 2nd IPA coil assembly with a new, custom-made replacement. The new unit was calibrated and the transmitter was returned to service. This completes the 2nd IPA replacement of all GE transmitters.

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

As of January 22nd, the new IOR B-pol system is on the air at NSS-12 57°E. During the Government shutdown the Lampertheim earth station staff took the initiative and coordinated the realignment of all IOR B-pol carriers on the GLR09/GLL09 transponder. The Station conducted a successful conference call with Tinang, Kabul, Beirut, Baghdad, Djibouti and Kabul in addition to NCC and SES PMOC. Due to our limited phone lines, Dubai Vivek was on a different link coordinating issues with Samir in Beirut.

(b) (6) retired this month after 38 years of services in the US Government (27 years with VOA/BBG). Embassy HR has not been successful in recruiting a replacement for her position; they will advertise the job again at the trainee level.

As of January 22nd, (b) (6) has been designated as the Acting Transmitting Station Manager.

(b) (6) has assumed duties from (b) (6) as the Station's COR on the Workforce 5-year-contract, which was awarded through RPSO/Consulate in Frankfurt.

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

The first half of the month was rather quiet and unremarkable, with many of the staff returning from annual leave. Resident Engineer (b) (6) returned to the station from the US on the 3rd.

On the 25th, a Kuwaiti National reported to the front gate requesting permission to retrieve his prized \$15K Falcon, which had flown from his handler onto the outer perimeter of the Station. The Station Manager was summoned to the front gate, and, together with the owner, was able to assist in the capture of the valuable pet. The Kuwaiti was grateful for the assistance, and offered the Manager a gift for assisting with the capture, which was politely declined.

The last week of the month made up for the quietness of the preceding weeks with Celebrations! On January 28th, the Station held a farewell luncheon for retiring Radio Technician (b) (6) who is moving back to his home in Greece. (b) (6) served the IBB Kuwait Station for three years, and his voluntary separation was effective February 3rd. January 29th, the station had a farewell party for another Radio Technician, (b) (6), who acquired a position in the Embassy. (b) (6) previously worked as a security guard with the Embassy for 18 months before joining the Kuwait Transmitting Station in 2011. Darwin's last day at IBB was January 31st. We wish them all the best.

The TX Kitchen Refurbishment, was completed by Alpha Multimodel and handed over to the Station on January 28th.

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

The month of January was relatively quiet. The Tinian site had an increased number of commercial power outages. The Station is working with local power provider to isolate the causes of these unusually frequent outages. Routine maintenance activities continued throughout the month, unhampered by any weather while in the Dry Season.

(b) (6), CNMI Resident Engineer, traveled to Saipan on January 7-8th, 17 and 24 for O&M contract surveillance and other administrative duties. (b) (6) traveled to Washington, DC on January 25th for training and agency consultation.

(b) (6), PTS Telecom Engineer, remained in the Marianas stations until his departure on December 20. While in the Marianas, (b) (6) replaced/reconfigured and expanded the inter-site microwave equipment to improve the signal strength for this vital IT link. (b) (6) also assisted with the installation of a new day tank for Saipan's emergency generator system. (b) (6) completed preliminary SCADA work ahead of that system's expansion by Caltrol from December 11th through the 19th. (b) (6) worked with (b) (6) of Caltrol and (b) (6) of Hawthorne Caterpillar, successfully completing the SCADA expansion. The expansion allows for greater control and improved system condition status at the remote operations site in the Philippines.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January:

On the 24th, (b) (6), attended a meet and greet with PSUPT (b) (6), the Provincial Mobile Force Company Commander. Commander (b) (6) replaced Commander (b) (6) on January 15, 2018 as the Commanding Officer of PNP detachment.

Later that afternoon, (b) (6) from GFIU/RSO U.S. Embassy, Manila arrived at the station to attend the local guard force marksmanship training at the Brgy Tinang firing range.

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

On January 13th, a human error caused by Master Control technician prevented transmitter SAO-2 from broadcasting at 11:00 am. As a result, station lost 30 minutes of Net F French program.

The Antenna maintenance team set up the Spider System on antenna #06 in order to replace corroded feedlines, vertical and horizontal radiators and burned wire support clamps. Eight feedlines were replaced, as well as two vertical and three horizontal radiators and nine burned clamps on the curtain side. The Team is also continuing conducting Preventive Maintenance and corrosion control on the tower #01 (priming up to the second platform, continuing removing rust and corrosion).

Due to the local time change on January 1st, the Station office hours have been adjusted starting on January 16th. There was and still is no explanation for this time change, except a nebulous statement that it would "save energy".

A bid for the Customs Agent services was published on January 16th. Unfortunately, the participation rate was unexpectedly low. Only one bidder showed his interest in providing the Customs Agent services to our Station, although 2 qualified bidder arrived in person to pick up applications, and one qualified bidder inquired via email.

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

(b) (6), the new Transmitter Plant Admin Assistant, arrived on January 7th to join the IBB Udorn team.

From January 17th through 19th, (b) (6) from RSOI, Bangkok traveled to the Udorn station to perform security revalidation for the whole IBB staff.

During the month of January, the Station received 11 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty eight shipments for the month of February. Thirteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and nine shipments were designated to Embassies including Johannesburg, Maputo, Juba and Prague. The Team coordinated two shipments going to Kinshasa and OCB, and eight total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of sending an SF6 Gas Switch from Greenville to G&W Electric Company in Illinois for repair, and also sending an inner conductor to Baghdad and a FedEx duty payment. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed seventeen deliveries from JCM to IBB and six pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 2/27/18, we have eight open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of February was 4,711 and a total of 2,587 items inventoried. The Team added 77 items to PIPS (3 were Capital Assets with a value of \$251,929) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$319,247. We also deleted 63 Items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$25,188) with a total acquisition value of \$178,733.
- The Property Management Team is in the final stages of testing the new software solution for property management. Training is to begin on March 13th and continue for four days.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The allotment for Quarter 2 was received on February 14, 2018. Funds were transferred to the overseas stations for a total of seven projects. To date funds have been transferred for a total of 15 out of the 25 prioritized projects. There are three complex procurement actions at CON: Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$250k); Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k); and new A/E ID/IQ contract. We are working closely with CON and expect contract awards this FY. Another action is a task order for rigger training at Tinang. The proposal will be submitted soon and training is expected to start 6 to 8 weeks after award. Victor Ponce visited Kuwait this month to investigate issues with the chilled water system and to perform an O&M Assessment. A trip report including findings and recommendations will be provided soon. In summary, the transmitting station lacks preventative maintenance for non-transmitter equipment, and all facility equipment needs proper preventative maintenance and deficiencies corrected. In addition, chilled water systems need to be flushed, refilled, and chemical treatment applied to prolong equipment life.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2018

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

On the 20th, (b) (6) the Regional Station Manager travelled to Gaborone to attend the Country Team Meeting.

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

On February 6th, the station began the pre-demolition work to disconnect and remove the original Continental 420A transmitters. This is needed to make room for the Continental 419F transmitters which are in transit to the station.

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

This month, (b) (6) traveled to Germany in preparation for formally assuming his station manager duties on April 6, 2018. During this TDY visit from February 25th to March 3rd, he attended meetings with the IBB staff, interviewed new candidates for the Administrative Management Specialist position and performed a courtesy visits with a number of officers at the Frankfurt Consulate, Consul General and Deputy Principal Offices, Public Affairs Offices, the Regional Security Officer and the Human Resources Offices. The German security assessment team came to the station to discuss the security improvement plans at both Biblis and Lampertheim Transmitting stations.

Central Europe encountered an arctic cold front in February, the stations operations continued as normal. But they did experience some temperatures in the range of 10F for a short time. Compared to other areas in the Alps that reach a negative 23F, we were quite lucky despite the extreme cold temperatures. The heating pump system in Lampertheim operated without issues and the station was adequately tempered.

Prior to the semiannual sun outage we made preparation to avoid any program loss at the IBB Germany and affiliate sites. The station did observe an outage for the first time due to some CISCO and KATHREIN receivers losing sync after the peak sun outage. The new MPLS link between NCC and Prague, RFE&RL performed the prime Hotbird uplink without any requirement to transfer the signal. The Lampertheim Hotbird uplink was on standby and prepared for all contingencies.

Work was performed on both the East Fiber links in January and February. During this time we isolated streams to individual IP links while the work was performed. This month we had nearly no CC errors on the prime program streams and in addition to that the monitor return feeds to NCC via a new established IP east fiber stream worked out very well. The station has not receive any complaints on quality or missing content throughout the month.

The network support team eagerly consolidated and finalized all shipments to Africa. Theses scheduled shipment are going to Brazzaville, Bangui and Dakar.

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

The month of February was a busy one, with the entire staff diligently working on multiple projects throughout the month.

TX staff (literally) dusted off the Harris 600Kw transmitter and has been running individual power blocks into the dummy load under full modulation. The staff has also identified and tagged working spare parts for the Harris and removed defective spare parts from the inventory. We also identified defective spare parts and moved them to the TX shop for possible repair.

Our long overdue TX Kitchen refurbishment project was finally completed this month. We now have a clean and pleasant breakroom/kitchen to enjoy our meals in.

The refurbishment of the inner compound guard building was 95% complete at the month, with only a small amount of touch-up work remaining. The contractor has performed very well, and we look forward to working with them again on other projects. Much of the security equipment the LGF guard use during their shift was removed to allow the contractor easier access to the space, and will be reinstalled by TX technicians.

The facilities staff worked on our 4 antenna SW array during most of the month. Access was limited to approximately 4 hrs a day; nonetheless, they were able to accomplish all required work. We will continue to work on adjacent antennas next month, with the goal of completing all needed maintenance work before the desert heat returns in April.

(b) (6), arrived on the 12th and departed on the 16th after conducting a much needed and thorough assessment of the stations HVAC systems. He provided lots of useful information and noted many problems with our existing systems. (b) (6), poured through the repair history of our units and noted the station has been paying a lot of money for repair work over the years. We look forward to seeing (b) (6)'s report and working with him on solutions to our myriad of HVAC related problems.

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

Preparations are underway for the March planned visits from the staff support teams from the Philippines and Washington, DC to replace our aged IT computers and servers. We are continuing our maintenance activities services on the antenna hardware at both stations.

The station is happy to report that NAVFAC has signed the acceptance of IBB's funding documents and will now proceed with the Fuel Tank Installation (M&R 8116) and Chilled Water Air-conditioning Installation (M&R 1421) planning and engineering portions of those projects. NAVFAC project leader, (b) (6), scheduled a kick-off meeting with his staff the last week in February.

Tinian, had one commercial power outage encountered this month with 0.25 hour of program outage. The transmitter related problems attributed to 0.83 hour of outage and the remaining was due to antenna related problems. We're continuing to implement replacement of old corroded bolts and other equipment on tower #3, and all platforms on the tower are being replaced.

Saipan, operations had (2) commercial power outages/power fluctuations encountered this month without lost time reported.

(b) (6), the Resident Engineer, returned on February 8th from a trip to WDC for training and consultation. While in WDC, (b) (6) consulted with IBB staff from TSI, CON and HR. (b) (6), traveled to Saipan on February 14th, and the 20th thru the 21st for O&M contract surveillance and other administrative duties.

IBB Station Manager, (b) (6), visited the station February 6th -9th. While in the CNMI, he met with (b) (6) and the O&M Contract Project Manager, (b) (6) to discuss the status of the O&M Contract. (b) (6) proposed implementing use of a log to record antenna hardware maintenance for each tower, which should prove useful in tracking progress, parts, logistics, and man-power planning purposes. (b) (6) was receptive to the idea and plan.

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

On the 24th, (b) (6), attended a meet and greet with PSUPT (b) (6), the Provincial Mobile Force Company Commander. Commander (b) (6) replaced Commander (b) (6) on January 15, 2018 as the Commanding Officer of PNP detachment.

Later that afternoon, (b) (6) from GFIU/RSO U.S. Embassy, Manila arrived at the station to attend the local guard force marksmanship training at the Brgy Tinang firing range.

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

February 9th, a major corrective maintenance was carried out on SAO-A. One of the four cables from the TSM transformer that supply power to switch module #22 was burned. A new four-cable assembly was installed which restored the module back into service.

On February 14th, SAO-1 shut-down suddenly at 0550 hours. The speed of the water pump slowed down due to a defective bearing, and caused the amount of water flow in the high power output circuit to be reduced. A new pump was quickly installed; however, the Station lost 0.17 hours of NET B1 English to Zimbabwe and 0.50 hours of NET F French programs due to no back-up transmitter to carry the program.

The Station experienced a loss of program feed on February 18th at 0300 UTC. AOR41, was quiet with no IOR backup available. 30 minutes of Net F5 Sudanese was lost on transmitter SAO-2.

The 500-watt FM transmitter that failed on September 21, 2017 was repaired and returned back into service on February 22nd. The temporary 200-watt backup FM transmitter was brought back to the Station for storage.

The station received a new vacuum tube CQK50-2 from Thales on February 8th. Initial physical inspection indicates that the tube is fine. The tube was tested in accordance with the TSI and passed the 200-hour burn-in period.

During the month, all sections managed to accomplish their routine jobs (maintenance, inspections and preventive tasks). No accident nor power outage occurred. Nevertheless, some unscheduled work was done at the power plant. We repaired a vacuum breaker on engine #5 and put it back in service. We also completed cleaning the radiators and changing out the radiator motor on engine #3.

Antenna maintenance and refurbishment of antenna #6 screen and curtain side was completed. We also, replaced the broken feedlines, the vertical drop wire and the vertical and horizontal radiators assemblies. We spliced some bad wires, greased the wires and fabricated some elements and removed the spider system and winch machine from antenna #6. Antenna #08 spider system was replaced for broken and corroded vertical wires and support clamps on the screen side. The team troubleshot a malfunction on the spider stage caused by a loss of 24V (The micro switch was replaced.)The tower painters are in the ending section of painting and priming tower#1 and removing rust.

The HVAC system was disassembled and assembled with back-ordered parts from the R/O#2 and R/O#3 for corrosion control. Our refrigerator was repaired in the residence #2 and in the Facilities Lunch Room. A few other things we repaired were a micro switch on the riggers' spider machine and a flow switch on the chiller.

The Deputy Station Manager departed post on R&R on February 8th. On February 16th, the station informed the local prospective bidders of the B&G solicitation posted on the FBO website.

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

We would like to congratulate (b) (6) on his new assignment as the new Germany Station Manager.

February 5th -7th, FSN Radio Technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Seoul, South Korea to install satellite facilities at the FEBC Medium Wave Transmitter site at Jeju Island. The 6th - 8th of February, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from RSO Bangkok visited Udon site and local Royal Thai Police offices.

From February 24th - March 3rd, the Deputy Manager (b) (6) traveled to Germany for Station business. During the month, the Station received 7 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty four shipments for the month of March. Seven shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and ten shipments were designated to Embassies including Brazzaville, Lilongwe, Kinshasa, and Prague. The Team coordinated one bureau shipment to New York, and three total FedEx shipment. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed ten deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 3/26/18, we have eight open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of March was 1,848 and a total of 866 items inventoried. The Team added 38 items to PIPS (1 were Capital Assets with a value of \$137,678) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$175,006.29. We also deleted 65 Items from PIPS (9 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$2,624,516.75) with a total acquisition value of \$2,938,992.94.

- The Property Management Team and the Broadcast Operations Maintenance Team completed the initial training for the Real Asset Management (RAM) system. This was a 4 day, onsite training to give the team a better understanding of the system and also allowed for any existing problems to be addressed.
- The Property Management Team disposed of 20 pallets of Computer service equipment and excess scrap metal thru UNICOR. They also, turned in 2 trailers of surplus furniture thru GSA and equipment from JCM to the Temple Hills warehouse to be added as excess equipment. Lastly, we submitted all requisitions for March 2018.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The allotment for Quarter 2 was received on February 14, 2018. Funds were transferred to the overseas stations for a total of seven projects. To date funds have been transferred for a total of 15 out of the 25 prioritized projects. We are currently waiting on allotments for Quarters 3 & 4. There are three complex procurement actions at CON: Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624-\$250k), Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k), and new A/E ID/IQ contract. We are working closely with CON and expect contract awards this FY. The task order for rigger training at Tinang was awarded with training scheduled from May 21 to 25. Victor Ponce visited Kuwait last month to investigate issues with the chilled water system and to perform an O&M Assessment. He provided a list of recommended projects as a result from his visit. Victor will work closely with the station for remedial action through an M&R emergency project.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2018

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

(b) (6), the Regional Station Manager, departed the Station on the 2nd for a site visit to the Sao Tome Transmitting Station, which was followed by leave in the States.

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

The Conex containers housing the 419F transmitters were delivered to the site and placed adjacent to the transmitter building. Removal of the CEMCO 420A transmitters was completed. Work to clear obsolete wiring from the existing trenches and preparing the area for the new wall addition continues.

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

The Transmitting Station has continued to perform all necessary activities prior to the arrival of our new Station Manager, (b) (6) and his family. In particular, the administration was in continuous contact with the American Consulate regarding the new manager's housing and office setup.

This month the station was tasked to receive a Eutelsat 36B on a one-day notice. The current time is scheduled on a test phase to be transmitted to the satellite in FTA horizontal polarization. The test phase was extended and current time is available 24/7. Due to these circumstances, the Eutelsat 36B was permanently migrated into the AXON central monitoring system by the end of the month.

The semiannual sun outage did not cause a problem for any of the European satellite uplink. The Eutelsat 13°E HOTBIRD and NSS-12 IOR B-pol operated without any seconds of program loss. The sun outage ended on March 8th 2018.

To improve the quality of the AL MANAR feed for the CATV distribution in D.C., the station moved to a new satellite for the downlink in Germany.

For the first time the station did not experience any problems on either of the East Fiber links. The intensive work in January and February isolating streams to individual IP links paid off tremendously. Also, new circuits were installed and we've had nearly no CC errors on the prime program streams.

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

The month of March blew by with a whirlwind of activity for the Station and staff. The month started off with a vacancy announcement advertised by the Kuwait Embassy for our long vacated Administrative Assistant position. The position was long overdue for advertisement due to a complicated reclassification process, which first started in Germany, and made its way through the Middle East, finally settling in

India, Kuwait's "new" regional classification center. The vacancy will be advertised for thirty days, with interviews expected to take place mid-April.

(b) (6) , arrived on the 17th of March to conduct a preliminary site survey for the SW antenna array project. The new array will consist of two low band and high band antennas like our current SW antenna array, but facing south towards the African continent. (b) (6) quickly discovered a problem with the proposed path of the coaxial feeder to the antenna, and has worked out a solution, and avoiding what could have been a costly modification to the contract.

(b) (6) finalized the selection of the four Radio Technicians who will assist in the installation of the 3419F's shipped to Greenville. (b) (6) , also worked on identifying various spare parts for follow-on shipment to Greenville. (b) (6) worked on another project related to our SAWA broadcast agreement with the Kingdom of Bahrain, and traveled to Bahrain to meet with representatives of the Bahraini government.

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (6) (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6) (b) (7)(C)

The A/RSO visited the site and conducted various security drills. During the drills we discovered many of our SelecTone speaker units are not functioning. While troubleshooting the system, technicians discovered additions made to the SelecTone system during building expansion were not fully installed and probably have never worked. A laundry list of needed items has been emailed back to BBG Security for assistance.

Procurement Specialist (b) (6) attended SAP training at Management Concepts DC office, and (b) (6) has been temporarily assigned as the station's LAN/SIS Administrator, a position vacated by (b) (6) upon her promotion to Shift Supervisor.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived from the Philippines station on March 19th with a WDC team represented by (b) (6). The staff were here to work on several projects including replacement of servers, workstations and the installation of the new BBC satellite receiver and Generator/SCADA monitoring upgrade for Saipan site. The WDC team departed for home on March 31st.

Tinian's B&G staff preformed maintenance on Antenna Tower 3, replacing corroded bolts/nuts and platform grills. Work force was also concentrated in the repairs of antennas 333L/H, 270L, and 280L due to arcing caused by strong northeasterly winds.

The maintenance technicians installed 2 each Comet capacitors type (CVLA-1600 BW/40 with modified water cooling system on TIN-7's PA loading capacitors, replacing the current Jennings capacitors type (CWV2-1600-0040). These Comet capacitors remained in circuit for test and further observation.

(b) (6), IBB Administrative Officer, was on Medical Leave 19-31 March.

(b) (6), IBB Resident Engineer, traveled to Saipan Station on 1, 7, 13-14, 20, and the 30th of March for O&M Contract surveillance and other administrative duties. (b) (6) departed the CNMI the evening of 30 March for a medical check-up on Guam and returned to post on 9 April.

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

On the 23rd, a 1-year memorial was held in honor of (b) (6). The offsite event, which was hosted by (b) (6), was attended by (b) (6) and the majority of our local staff.

A farewell party was held for (b) (6), Management Secretary, and (b) (6), Supervisory Admin Management Specialist, on March 16. (b) (6)'s last day was the 16th, while (b) (6) departs on April 27. Both received U.S. immigrant visas. Interviews for both vacancies have been completed to minimize turnover time.

On the 6-7th of March, (b) (6), the Facilities Supervisor, along with two Electrical Unit staff members, traveled to Poro to meet with Transline Corporation to estimate the costs of transferring the 2.25MW genset to Tinang. The generator from Poro would replace both backup generators currently servicing Tinang. The current generators in Tinang are over 40 years old and becoming extremely difficult to service. The 2.25MW genset has the capacity to cover the majority of our broadcast operations, and potentially can efficiently reduce our annual diesel consumption. Our final decision is pending further analysis of historical operating data and the cost of transporting and recommissioning in Tinang.

March 19th-23rd two PHT technicians and one machinist were sent to Poro to assist with the disassembling of the DX1000. Also traveling on these dates were (b) (6) who attended Voucher Examiner Training in Bangkok. Throughout the month, all IBB employees completed the mandatory US Embassy Harassment Awareness Training.

(b) (6) from the U.S. Embassy ARSO arrived at the station on March 15th to conduct post-to-post inspection of the station local guard force. A total of 96 students and instructors from two different universities also visited the station for educational tours on the 14th and 15th.

Day Care graduation ceremonies for the five barangays that receive IBB grants were completed throughout the month. Various station employees attended these events to represent the agency. On March 21, Tarlac PNP Provincial Director P/SSupt. (b) (6) and company had a courtesy visit with the Station Manager.

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

March:

This month, the B&G and Local Guard Force Security contracts were again extended on a month-to-month basis. These extensions are necessary to facilitate uninterrupted service until awards are made by BBG Contracts and Diplomatic Security respectively.

On March 25th, the station experienced feed-related problem due to a technical problem at the studio. At 1400, UTC AOR42 was quiet with no IOR backup available. Six minutes of Net F2 KNKR were lost on SAO-1 and SAO-3 respectively.

The new A18 Broadcast Schedule was implemented on March 25th without any major concerns.

A total of three Operational Memos were implemented during the month. Operational Memo B17-069 was implemented on March 11th. Operational Memo A18-001 was implemented with the start of the A18 summer broadcast schedule on the 25th. While Operational Memo A18-007 was implemented on March 28.

During the month of March, all the sections accomplished their routine maintenance, inspections and preventive tasks. Neither accident nor power outage was reported.

Regional Station Manager (b) (6) arrived at the Transmitting Station on March 6th and departed for the US on March 10th. He returned to the Station on the 24th.

March 16th -18th, Admin. Mgt. Specialist (b) (6) went on TDY to the US Embassy Libreville to pick up a PKI card for the Coast Encryption. Upon her return, the station was finally able to process outstanding Coast Cashiering files that were pending for about four months.

The station worked on the two Statements of Work for the Driver and Cleaning services. These are to be posted on the Government FBO site.

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

Operations were normal during the month of March. Four containers shipped from the Greenville Station were delivered to the Udorn site on March 28th – 29th.

The Thailand Riggers' vacancy has been announced by the Embassy and there are 2 qualified applicants.

On March 22nd, The Station Manager, (b) (6), and Administrative Specialist, (b) (6), attended a meeting with (b) (6) from the OSD Bangkok office.

During the month of March, the Station received 12 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of forty three shipments for the month of April. Fourteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and four shipments were designated to Embassies including Brazzaville, Chad, Kinshasa, and Nairobi. The Team coordinated five bureau shipments to New York, OCB, Dubai and one FedEx shipment. The “other” shipments consisted of equipment shipped to Astro Systems in Bethesda, MD and the agent charges for the shipment in Abuja. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed twelve deliveries from JCM to IBB and four pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 4/25/18, we have ten open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of April was 4,967 and a total of 3,830 items inventoried. The Team added 84 items to PIPS (2 were Capital Assets with a value of \$34,687.68) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$69,375.00. We also deleted 65 Items from PIPS (0 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$0) with a total acquisition value of \$90,745.17.
- The Property Management Team reported 25 pallets of Computer service equipment at the JCM warehouse to be miscellaneous excess to UNICOR. They also reported a trailer of surplus furniture thru GSA. Lastly, we submitted all requisitions for April 2018.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. To date, the 1071 M&R program has received 100% of the estimated budget allotment. All available allotted funds have been transferred to the overseas transmitting stations for station specific priority projects. FY18 M&R Plan Look Ahead: Continue awarding the remaining FY18 prioritized projects depending on contractor proposals and budget allotment. This includes working with Contracts to award the following FY18 projects:

1. Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems, \$310k (M&R 1618).
2. Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System, \$250k (M&R 1624).
3. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires, \$230k (M&R 1420).
4. Germany – Overhaul the MW Antenna Towers, \$350k (M&R 1616).
5. A/E Post Construction Award Services

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2018

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

On April 2nd, the Station Manager arrived back on station from a site visit to the Sao Tome Transmitting Station and Sick Leave in the States.

The Station assembled a Technical Evaluation Panel and selected K. B Construction Company as the cleaning services contractor. The task order starts the 1st of May. Due to the economic downturn of the area, the Station received 30 proposals. This is 15 more than we received two years ago.

The current CCTV systems is slowly dying. The Station is fielding bids to update the camera system and expects to make the award by the middle of June. BBG Security has provided funding for this project.

Currently, the Botswana Government has not supplied banking details for the two years of land lease money due to them. The Station manager is working with the Minister of Broadcasting and Minister of Land & Housing offices to resolve the problem.

M&R project 1804 will no longer entail removing and replacing the administrative and facility's roofs that contain asbestos. Instead, the roofs will be sprayed with a special sealant to reduce the potential dispersion of asbestos in the air.

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

During the month of April, contractors completed repair work on curtain antenna B-31. The work continues on the 419F transmitter installations.

The existing transmitter hall trenches were cleared of old wiring and made ready for the new and refurbished trench plate covers. Parts of each existing transmitter return air duct system was redirected to the existing pump and tank room to provide exhaust air flow for the new transmitter heat exchangers. Final preparations were made for the installation of the new transmitter hall wall.

Visitors for the month included members of the Black Jack, NC volunteer fire department, on site for a tour of our facility.

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

IBB Germany welcomed the new Station Manager, (b) (6) and family. (b) (6) arrived on April 6th and started the lengthy check-in process. The US Consulate Management is making an issue over the BBG/IBB not being a Foreign Affairs agency with regards to housing in the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM). The Manager had various courtesy calls with units in the Consulate with whom the station does business with.

The Station Management performed interviews for the Supervisory Admin. Mgt. Specialist and Budget Analyst this month. One candidate for the Budget Analyst position was selected for recruitment. The

recruitment process will continue until HRO has administered all security checks and receives all paper work.

The Transmitting Station played an integral part in the launching of the Eutelsat 7°W uplink via the Makarios site in Cyprus. Several additional setups, conference calls and test have been necessary to launch this uplink. IBB Germany provides the program via NSS-!2 IOR-B pol which is at the Makarios site the source for Eutelsat 7°W. Eutelsat 7°W is on the same orbital location as Nilesat 201 and 101 on 7°W. Therefore, it should be quite simple to transfer all stations in the Middle East receiving Nilesat 201 to the new Eutelsat 7°W.

Two transmitter plant personnel, (b) (6) and (b) (6), performed service at the Djibouti PK-12 site to fix the problems with the transmitter and associated equipment.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to IBB Kuwait to attend training on automation/monitoring equipment and also to perform an assessment on available satellite uplink equipment. While they were in Kuwait, several additional topics were addressed and corrected.

A meeting with the B&G contractor, (b) (6), took place at the Lampertheim site. The two main topics were communication between the COR and the contractor, and the replacement of missing contractor personnel.

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

(b) (6) took annual leave on the 5th of April through the 18th of April.

Two of the Radio Technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6), are attending the (80 hour) CISCO (ICN1 & ICN2) Training at New Horizons Training Center, Kuwait.

On April 19th, the Embassy conducted their Annual Awards Ceremony. Two Supervisory Radio Technicians were awarded for length of service – (b) (6) (40 year), (b) (6) (20 year), One Radio Technician – (b) (6) (10 years). Two drivers – (b) (6) and (b) (6), received Safe Driving Awards.

On April 23rd, interviews were conducted for the Admin Assistant's position. HR is in the process of completing the paper work for the selected candidate.

On the 25th of April, the Station had a site visit from UPS. Three vendors visited the station.

On the 26th April, the ARSO visited the station.

From April 29th through May 3rd, the Station had two visitors from Germany – (b) (6) and (b) (6), who worked on the FM Monitoring and SIS.

On the 29th of April, the Station's Internet line went off and was restored after more than 24 hours.

Al Bahar conducted its routine Generator Maintenance.

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

The dry season may be officially over in the Marianas, with monsoonal rains reducing the threat of grassland fires. While it is nice to see our islands green again, routine mowing is now in the work plan. The staff has been busy wrapping up dry season activities and prepping field equipment for their anticipated increased use.

(b) (6), IBB Resident Engineer, met with NAVFAC Marianas representatives on April 3rd. The status of the Fuel Tank installations was the focus of the meetings. Unfortunately, our progress has stalled due to previously submitted documentation becoming lost during a change-over of NAVFAC personnel. The station provided new copies of the documentation at the meeting. This has also caused further frustration due to problems with the funding vehicle. IBB's IPAC payment was rejected by DFAS-CL IPAC due to some accounting line details, which we are now trying to rectify.

(b) (6), PTS Telecommunications Engineer, commissioned a new Audio Switcher, and added enhancements to the Generator SCADA in Saipan. (b) (6) wrapped up his visit to the Marianas on the 8th of April.

(b) (6), IBB Engineer, visited the Mariana Stations from the 6th -12th of April. (b) (6) completed some pre-work tower deflection determinations for those towers scheduled for suspension cable replacements. In a related matter, IBB was saddened to hear that (b) (6) died when a tower collapsed on him while he was enhancing structural supports on a 1900 ft. tower in Missouri. (b) (6) was to be sub-contracted by our O&M Contractor, Rome Research, to do the cable replacements as a contract Mod.

(b) (6), the Station Manager, was in the Marianas, 17th -20th of April. (b) (6) visited both Stations and held meetings with the IBB staff and (b) (6), the RRC Project Manager. (b) (6), also attended a meeting at the local utility provider on Tinian to discuss various concerns with their feed line maintenance or the lack thereof. The meeting went well, with the maintenance provider committing to a full-length inspection to clear encroaching trees and shrubs.

IBB Administration: (b) (6), IBB Resident Engineer, departed the CNMI the evening of March 30th for a medical check-up on Guam and returned to post on April 9th. (b) (6) traveled to Saipan Station on the 12th and 30th of April for O&M contract surveillance and other administrative duties. (b) (6) departed the CNMI on April 18th to accompany a family member to a medical evaluation at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, HI. (b) (6) returned to post on April 26th.

RRC Administration: (b) (6), traveled to the US to attend Comtrain Tower Climber Instructor Safety Course from April 20th - May 11th.

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

(b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to Poro on April 10th – April 12th and to CNMI from April 16th to April 20th for usual oversight.

On April 24, Lt. Sorita from the 3rd Mech IB of Philippine Army and two US Army Sergeants, (b) (6), conducted a courtesy visit and were given a tour of the Station by (b) (6). On April 16th, (b) (6) from Botswana Transmitting Station arrived at the station for cross training on satellite and IT systems. Also on April 16th, (b) (6) arrived at the Station and

conducted Antenna Maintenance training for the riggers. (b) (6) also visited the Poro station to evaluate the gasoline storage tank. (b) (6) concluded that the tank is in good condition and can be moved and installed at Tinang station. In addition, a total of 100 students and instructors from three (3) different universities visited the station for an educational tour on April 3rd, 4th and 11th.

On April 26th, the IBB participated in the Take our Sons and Daughters to Work Day Event that was held at the US Embassy in Manila. At the event we displayed a mini transmitter and a PowerPoint presentation to show the participants what the IBB's mission entails.

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

On April 4th at 0830 UTC, the switch matrix failed to close antenna #4 reverse interlock to transmitter SAO-1 due to a loose connection in the Matrix Interface Unit. Technicians managed to substitute SAO-03 after multiple attempts. Six minutes of Net F French programming were subsequently lost.

During the month of April, all sections accomplished their routine maintenance, inspections and preventive tasks. Neither accident nor power outage was reported.

Unscheduled work was completed as follows:

Antenna maintenance:

- Completed preventive maintenance on antenna #08 on the screen side by replacing five broken and corroded vertical wires assemblies; wires support clamps, aluminum bolts and nuts.
- The Spider system was set-up on the curtain side of antenna #08 for replacement of some very corroded drop-wire assemblies, wire clamps, and greased all the elements. So far, two drop-wire assemblies were replaced.
- Fault occurred on antenna #01. Replaced limit switch, and made some mechanical adjustments.
- Replaced broken wire assembly on the balun of open line for antenna #01 & 02.
- Preventive maintenance on tower #03, scraping, removing rust, priming with secondary paint, replaced bolts, nuts and some leg braces.

B&G:

- Conducted corrosion control and painting on the Fuel Storage Tanks, Water Tank, and the Surge Tank at Marine Fuel Terminal.
- Started repair works on the road to the residences.

Regional Station Manager (b) (6) departed post for IBB Botswana Transmitting Station on the 7th of April.

The solicitations for Cleaning & Janitorial Services and Driver Services were posted on the FBO site on April 4th. The Custom Clearing Services solicitation was posted on the FBO site on April 5th. These solicitations were also published locally via radio and TV announcements and posting on the station bulletin boards and in public places downtown. The site visits for Cleaning & Janitorial Services and Driver Services took place on April 17th and 18th. Several proposals were received by the response date of April 20th.

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

Operations were normal during the month of April. Several contractors have visited the sites as they prepare to submit quotations for our M&R projects.

On April 6th, (b) (6) and family departed post for his new assignment as the Germany Station Manager.

The additional 3-container shipment from the Greenville Station were delivered to the Udorn site on April 12th.

During the month, the Station received 12 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty seven shipments for the month of May. Ten shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and seven shipments were designated to Embassies including Jerusalem, Morocco, Dakar, and Kinshasa. The Team coordinated two bureau shipments to New York, OCB, Dubai and four FedEx shipment. The “other” shipments consisted of the Greenville TS shipping capacitors to Germany and Thailand, returning former employee Faiz Rehman’s items back to him at his home address, some excess equipment being picked up from MBN in Springfield, VA, and a FedEx invoice shipment to Haiti. Lastly, the Logistics team completed six deliveries from JCM to IBB and four pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 5/29/18, we have seven open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Logistics Team, along with the Budget Office, completed the 2018 Fleet Management & Budget Narrative Plan. This document is required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for reporting the agency's Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) report on future-years estimates for fleet acquisitions, disposals, and costs analysis.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of April was 787 and a total of 273 items inventoried. The Team added 10 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$1772.95. We also deleted 77 Items from PIPS (0 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$0) with a total acquisition value of \$293,708.72.
- The Property Management Team reports GSA (MOU) funding was increased to \$30,000 to continue surplus of furniture and equipment. This month we completed & submitted all requisitions for supply orders for the month of May 2018.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. To date, the 1071 M&R program has received 100% of the estimated budget allotment. All available allotted funds have been transferred to the overseas transmitting stations for station specific priority projects. There are three complex procurement actions at CON: Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$250k); Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k); and new A/E ID/IQ contract. We are working closely with CON but time is starting to become an issue as these contracts require 30 day posting and technical evaluations for contract award. Other M&R activities included completion of rigger training in the Philippines, submission of A&E task order for Erosion Project at Marathon site and submission of task orders for

construction phase services for the projects in Greenville and Tinang. Our engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Tinang this month. (b) (6) provided oversight for the rigger training and is leading the efforts for the antenna repair that caused the fatal accident. (b) (6) just arrived at the end of the month and will be performing a mechanical survey and an O&M assessment.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2018

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

On the 16th of May, the Station Manager departed post for sick leave in the States and conducted a site visit at the Sao Tome Transmitting Station.

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

The Transmitting Station continued working on the 419F transmitter installations. The transmitter's floors were prepared for painting and sealing with areas of high traffic to be painted last. The transmitter's walls were installed and after the completion of the glass panes the wall will be complete.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6), engineers from the SAS and Network Automation Team, visited Saipan and CNMI from May 10th thru the 4th of June to conduct the installation of the transmitter's Antenna display. (b) (6) and (b) (6) also converted the Synthesizers in Tinian ABB transmitters to PTS-40 type PLC training for both stations along with the optimization and maintenance of the PLC program.

The Lampertheim satellite group worked with the Global Networks throughout the month troubleshooting signals on the East Fiber delivery system. The team realized when individual streams were isolated i.e. MBN video and SAWA audio from regular/genuine AOR/East fiber data streams the signal quality for the IOR B-Pol (NSS12) system was improved. Before this various setups and stream configuration showed limited to no significant improvements. With these corrections at the Lampertheim Station the signal distribution will maintain the improved signal quality. Currently, were looking into the possibilities of monitoring the Eutelsat 7°W out of the Cyprus Makarios site. The Cyprus 7°W uplink is out of footprint for the Lampertheim sites and therefore we are currently unable to monitor/track this signal. A satellite device to the AXON system may be the solution.

On May 17th several staff members participated in the presentation of LE Staff Supplemental Retirement benefit Plan by the U.S Embassy S/HRO (b) (6) at the Frankfurt Consulate.

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

During the month of May Station operations were routine and (b) (5) went on home leave from May 10th through June 29th.

We conducted repairs on the SW Antenna during the month of May. We also conducted a Specialized Security Systems fire alarm test on the 21st.

Two Riggers (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed for the Philippines to work on antenna repairs.

Al Bahar, conducted its routine Generator Maintenance on the 31st of May.

Facilities Section:

During the month of May, the facilities continued and finished maintenance on a SW antenna A3 Curtain Radiator, Feedlines, and slew switches.

The Riggers team finished working on installing pole support of open transmission line for the new SW antenna. They also started making antenna radiator elements and assembling them to build and erecting the Short Wave antenna.

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

REKTS:

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Germany Station Automation Team and Larry Chiu and (b) (6) the Philippine Station arrived in the Marianas on the 12th of May. While there (b) (6) and (b) (6) provided PLC programming theory and hands on training to our O&M technicians utilizing kits provided for continued practice and familiarization. This training was needed due to the refreshed transmitter controls used at both Stations. The O&M technicians on Saipan are now able to effect changes needed to assure continued readiness of Transmitter assets. On Tinian this training preceded the recent upgrade and installation of new Frequency Synthesizers on Transmitters TIN-01 and TIN-03 which required refreshed PLC Control programming. Larry and (b) (6) along with the Tinian Technicians, installed these upgrades and other automation enhancements. The newly installed Antenna Connection and Bore Site display at each transmitter in both Tinian and Saipan now illustrate which antenna is connected and its bearing. Previously, this information was only displayed within the MCR on the OPCON computers.

(b) (6) returned to the Philippine station on the 27th of May. (b) (6), (b) (6), and (b) (6) are scheduled to return in a June.

(b) (6), the Station Manager, visited the Marianas May 24th through the 31st. (b) (6) visit was in conjunction with the arrival of (b) (6), who arrived on May 26. (b) (6) will be

taking over the Resident Engineer position for (b) (6) who is scheduled to transfer to the Philippines Station in August.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6), traveled to the Saipan Station on May 4th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, the 16th through the 25th, and 28th through the 30th for O&M Contract surveillance and other administrative duties including giving the initial Saipan Station familiarization tour to (b) (6).

(b) (6) and IBB Marianas staff attended a welcome aboard gathering held for (b) (6) on May 28th.

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station May 30th for that stations familiarization tour for Mica.

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

(b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to CNMI from May 23rd to 31st to welcome the new Resident Engineer and complete the usual oversight of the station.

The annual representation event for the Bureau of Fire Protection, Municipal Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Office from the Municipalities of Concepcion, Capas, and Bamban was held on May 30th, at the Thuk-Thuk Restaurant, Concepcion, Tarlac.

On May 21st, (b) (6) from Washington DC, (b) (6) and (b) (6) of ComTrain arrived at the station to conduct tower safety climbing and rescue training. On the 24th of May, (b) (6) and (b) (6), riggers from IBB Kuwait, arrived at the station to work on antenna 086. A total of 83 students and instructors from three (3) different universities visited the station for an educational tour on May 2nd, 23rd and the 30th.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIT

On May 2nd, the MERN link to Washington was restored. On May 18, the Kabul link was confirmed by (b) (6) to be working.

On May 10th, the NCC (b) (6) requested to check receipt of three Vatican programs via URL streaming. PTU configured three Barix decoders and setup audio monitoring equipment at the MCR for the said URLs. The list of the Vatican URLs that matched the Tinang Transmitter Vatican programs at specific times as monitored by the Tinang MCR staff was then forwarded to NCC as requested.

On May 14th, Tinang received an email requesting the station to monitor the new MBN carrier on IOR B-Pol for any audio dropouts. PTU staff set up a receiver and Audio and Video monitors at the MCR and requested the operator on duty to monitor the programs on the said carrier. The latter then emailed all noted observations to NCC.

On May 25, it was reported to PTU that the emails sent to the Philippines Admin Procurement mailing list from outside the organization and via Digital sender and Faxfax are not being delivered. The issue was escalated to Washington DC/Massimo Gigli.

FACILITIES

A severe thunderstorm on May 11th damaged Facilities building roof and gutters, as well as a portion of gutters from the TX building. All repairs were successfully completed.

Following ComTrain rigger training (21st – 25th), Richard Cai oversaw the reimplementation of curtain antenna repairs for system 086/087 on the 29th. Antenna repair activities had been suspended while the embassy POSHO completed their safety report and the station obtained required refresher training. Though seasonal weather threatens, the team hopes to have this system repaired and online in the coming weeks. Noting the impending summit between the United States and North Korea, getting this array back on the air is particularly timely. Many thanks to Kuwait riggers (b) (6) and (b) (6), who lend their experience and expertise to our rigger workforce.

ADMIN

(b) (6) had their Retirement Orientation in HR U.S Embassy Manila on May 14th.

(b) (6) was also at the Embassy to activate her OpenNet and PKI.

Contract Action Reports already updated from December 2017 backlog up to April 2018.

Antenna Equipment Technician (FMO) – Vacancy Announcement posted via US Embassy's website and ended on May 30.

Conducted Travel Policy guidelines to (b) (6) to standardize remarks on the Travel Authorization.

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

On May 5th, the Station experienced feed related problems due to a technical problem at the studio. At 0500, UTC AOR42 was quiet with no IOR backup available. 30 minutes of Net F2 KNKR program were lost on SAO-1 and SAO-2 respectively. At 1500, UTC of the same day another problem at the studio caused a loss of program on AOR 42. 38 minutes of Net F2 KNKR program was lost on SAO-2 and SAO-3.

On May 24th, NCC faced an automation system malfunction, which removed the audio program from AOR43. As a result 26 minutes of Net B English to Africa were lost on SAO-A.

The Station lost one CQK 650-1 tube. The tube serial number 755492 was installed in SAO-A on January 21, 2016 and got low emissions on May 10th with 8341 Anode hours.

May, was a rainy month. However, all Facilities sections managed to accomplish their routine maintenance, inspections and preventive tasks. During this period no accident or power outage occurred.

Antenna maintenance:

The Station riggers and the B&G contract rigger assistants, in conjunction with visiting rigger (b) (6) from Botswana, have been replacing all bridles on the spreader bars in Array 3. In addition, it was determined that many maintenance cables were very corroded and had to be changed before the array could be made safe for riggers to work.

It was further determined that the 20 work days allotted for (b) (6) visit would possibly not be enough time for the 11-man crew to complete the necessary tasks. Therefore, the crew had agreed among themselves to work every day until the job was finished. Although there is only one week left, we are hopeful that all the tasks will be performed, including the replacement of one corroded thimble on the guy wires. This is a huge task and I am proud of the attitude and professionalism of all the members of the crew.

Particulars:

Tower crew set up the rigging system (spider stage and boson chair) on towers #12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, for replacement of the corroded bridle cables, bridle pendals and maintenance cables. High band antennas #13/14 (replaced sixteen PN 169-BDL-01A), Low band antennas #12, 13, 15 (replaced sixteen PN 163-BDL-07/08A).

Crew replaced six corroded maintenance cables on antennas #10, 11 and 12.

Facilities Plant:

The Facilities Plant employees and the Deputy Station Manager repaired the fuel delivery floating hose at Marine Fuel Terminal and it is ready for the upcoming fuel offloading operation. This will be the last use of this hose, which has been stressed by overpressure, and now has a clamped-on repair flange on one end. Great care will be taken to ensure that the operation is a success.

Administration functions were routine, with the exception of planning and preparation for the Simplified Acquisitions and COR classes which will proceed for 10 days starting 6/4. The vacant house is now rigged as a classroom with projectors etc. The IT Tech has constructed a network with eight PCs there, as the COR class requires it.

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

During the month of May, (b) (6), the Philippines Budget Analyst traveled to the Udorn site for consultation.

May 29th through the 31st, (b) (6) traveled to the Udorn site to visit the Local Affiliate stations in Nongkhai and Udonthani.

During the month of May, the Station received 24 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty two shipments for the month of June. Eighteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and seven shipments were designated to Embassies including Kabul, Iraq, and Brazzaville. The Team coordinated one import from Kuwait to Greenville and nine FedEx shipment. The “other” shipments consisted of a FedEx duty charge for Saipan, shipping a D9854I to FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company) in South Korea for Julio, and additional ATP charges for the Poro project. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed nine deliveries from JCM to IBB and four pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 7/1/18, we have eight open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of June was 4834 and a total of 839 items inventoried. The Team added 1 non-capital asset item to PIPS with a total acquisition cost of \$33,804. They also deleted 1 Item from PIPS with a total acquisition value of \$51,048.
- The Property Management Team had a kick-off meeting with the auditors on June 20th. This year they will be visiting Thailand transmitting stations and the New York Bureau.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. To date, the 1071 M&R program has received 100% of the estimated budget allotment. All available allotted funds have been transferred to the overseas transmitting stations for station specific priority projects. There are three complex procurement actions at CON: Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$250k), Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k), and new A/E ID/IQ contract. We continue working closely with CON but time is starting to become an issue as these contracts require 30 day posting and technical evaluations for contract award. As a result of Richard’s diligence during his trip to Tinang, the repair of antenna 086/021 (6 MHz) and antenna 087/021 (7 MHz) was completed and both are back into active status. The FY19 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations at the end of the month with submissions due on August 27, 2018.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2018

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

During the month of June, with cooler weather approaching, the rigging staff stayed quite busy. First, (b) (6), our contract rigger, travelled to Sao Tome to provide his vast knowledge and skill for the replacement of the shortwave antenna bridles. Upon (b) (6) return to Botswana, he continued working on Botswana's shortwave antenna phyllistran assemblies.

The team also continued work on the medium wave antenna system consisting of painting two of the new ladders. Facilities decided painting the ladders on the ground would be much simpler and safer. Installation of the ladders should start in late July. The facility staff painted and replaced eight generator exhaust systems.

Several FSNs from Botswana traveled to Sao Tome to attend on-site Simplified Acquisition and Writing Statement of Work courses taught by Management Concepts. The training was invaluable and course feedback was positive from each attendee. The Botswana FSNs left Sao Tome with a better understanding of the procurement process and the pitfalls that accompany contracting duties.

On the 23rd of June, the Station Manager arrived at post from site visit at Sao Tome Transmitting Station and Sick Leave in the States.

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

The Station continues working on the 419F transmitter installations. The transmitter hall floor area was sealed to protect the epoxy coating. Preparations are under way to place the PSM components in their respective power vault areas. A quote to refurbish the 250 KW baluns is pending.

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

Due to extensive dry weather during the month of June, the station was active in completing several outdoor activities. Some extensive painting on five satellite TVRO systems, alignments of three satellite TVRO systems and maintenance of several of the station's south-side window sunshades were completed by month's end. In particular, the window sunshades will reduce the heat in office space and consequently preserve electricity due to reductions in operating the AC units. After painting the satellite antenna surfaces, some of the older fiber-mode, multi-segment antennas look brand new.

Station engineers (b) (6) and (b) (6) of the SAS and Network Automation Team returned to post from an extended maintenance and system upgrade TDY at the Saipan and CNMI sites on June 4th. The maintenance included the installation of antenna displays in all transmitters, conversion of synthesizers in Tinian ABB transmitters to PTS-40 type, PLC training at both stations, and upgrades and maintenance of PLC and Workstation software.

The Lampertheim satellite group was in continuous contact with Global Networks to enhance reliability and signal distribution via NSS-12 IOR-B pol by Lampertheim. Due to the complex signal distribution

via different broadcast streams, independent signal paths had been established by utilizing all available East fiber circuits for redundancy. An essential enhancement was the creation of automatic redundant operation via both TELCO#1 and MW DCM paths with automatic fallback operation. All worked well, although station was hit on June 11th with a type of monsoon rain that degraded all C and KU band reception and transmissions from Lampertheim for about 8 minutes; it was a very rare natural event in our area to have such strong rainfall.

After several follow ups for the approval of the Regional Marketing Director position, (b) (6), will be assigned to Frankfurt. Finally, the Note Verbal was issued and now he can get his visa to enter Germany. (b) (6) and his family arrived June 30th and have been accommodated in the Consulate's Transit Quarters until his permanent residence is ready.

On May 27th, all available IBB Germany staff members participated in the presentation/launch of LE eMBC (Merit Based Compensation) Program by the U.S Embassy HR staff coordinator (b) (6).

A group of station technicians under guidance of Station Manager (b) (6) visited the ANGA trade fair in Cologne, Germany. The visit was fruitful and we've been able to establish several new business contacts. In particular, the visit to the AXON booth and the workshop on the latest monitoring system software paid off. We also established contact with several suppliers for fiber cable products at the same time. The idea is to move from traditional copper RF cable to fiber; the resulting elimination of signal attenuation may be beneficial for the satellite earth station signal distribution.

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

On the 16th, our Station Manager (b) (6) departed post for the U.S. for training, consultations and some annual leave. On the 10th of June, the Station welcomed FSO Sinisa Kurtic from the Philippines station to fill the gap between (b) (6)'s departure and (b) (6)'s return. (b) (6) arrived from the U.S. on the 29th of June and assumed the acting Station Manager duty.

Kuwait experienced heat, dust and the End of Ramadan in June. The day temperatures arose to 117 deg F, and this is even before summer season is in full swing. The mission in Kuwait has established a policy prohibiting working outdoors in direct sunlight between the hours of 11:00am to 4:00pm, during the summer months of June, July and August.

Kuwait, has experienced multiple sand storms during the last 2 weeks. The blowing sand formed large sand dunes on the main road that connects the Station to the Main gate, making it impossible for vehicles to pass.

Specialized Security Systems conducted their fire alarm test on the 26th of June.

Two Riggers, (b) (6) and (b) (6), who were on TDY in the Philippines, returned on the 29th of June.

FM Station Updates for the Month of June 2018:

Contract Awards and Renewals:

1. A one-year Contract was awarded to keep the Kenya FM Station on air.

2. The following FM Station O&M Agreements/Contracts will need to be renegotiated in the next few months:
 - a. Bahrain (Contract will be awarded end of July, 2018)
 - b. Burkina Faso (3 Month “bridge” PO to be awarded on or before 1 August)
 - c. Lebanon
 - d. Morocco
 - e. Sierra Leone

Kuwait Transmitting Station is working with Washington’s Office of Contracts to ensure that we continue broadcasting to these countries without any interruptions.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Germany Station Automation Team and (b) (6) from the Philippine Station departed Marianas, bound for respective home stations on July 2nd, after upgrades and installation of the new Frequency Synthesizers. The team also provided hands-on technical training for REKTS staff.

On the 11th of June, the Tinian station initiated a hot-buss transfer from CUC to site generators and created a total loss of station power. CUC production company rep, (b) (6), reported some damage to their Feeder 4 Sub-station. It is suspected that the failure occurred because the load balancers were working faster than CUC’s older equipment could handle, and perhaps that somehow caused the equipment failure. Without proper monitoring or further investigation, there is no definitive answer at this time as to what caused the failure.

(b) (6) attended CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meeting with CNMI State and Federal Agencies on the 27th of June, where joint training efforts were discussed. During this session, it was proposed that REKTS take part in multiple threat-training scenarios scheduled for January 2019. It was proposed to have REKTS call in a suspicious package in the parking lot while other threat scenarios are being played out to both stress and test the EOC’s ability to respond to multiple threats. (b) (6) will attend future EOC meetings to maintain REKTS awareness of CNMI activity and management.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Saipan site on June 6, 12-13, 20, and, 27th for O&M Contract surveillance and other administrative duties to include familiarization training with (b) (6).

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station June 21 for station familiarization training.

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

Mr. (b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to Poro on June 13 -14 for usual oversight.

On the 4th, Mr. (b) (6) of Engineering Network Support Unit from Washington arrived on station to inspect the station HVAC system. On the 12th, (b) (6) of (PPMC) Poro Point Management Corporation visited the station to discuss the Poro Site closure. On the 20th, (b) (6), the US Embassy Management Counselor, visited the station for a standard tour and a meeting

with the station manager. Nine retired Radio Technicians made a courtesy visit to the station on June 4th. In addition, a total of 78 students and instructors from the University of Cordillera arrived on station for an educational tour on the 27th and 28th.

Five surplus window-type air conditioners were granted to the five surrounding barangays (1-each) for use in their IBB supported Day Care Centers.

FACILITIES

With the help of (b) (6) and two riggers from Kuwait, the station successfully completed the repair of antennas 086-087. After completing the repair of damaged radiators, reflection coefficient testing was completed using a Network analyzer and along with HOT testing on both antennas on their corresponding frequency bands. Both exhibited acceptable SWR levels and were returned to active service on the 19th.

FMO Riggers performed maintenance on antenna 053-054. Team replaced damaged insulators, painted shackles and spliced vertical cables.

Around 2100HRS on June 24th, the station experienced a power outage due to a strong thunderstorm. Outage was due to tripping of feeder 2 circuit breaker CB2. The breaker was reset by TX personnel. Electrical Unit is performing an ongoing visual inspection of feeder 2, 13.8 kV transmission line.

ADMIN

Two admin staffers conducted an ocular hotel inspection for hotels in Pampanga and Tarlac for potential use by TDYers.

(b) (6) and (b) (6), riggers from IBB Kuwait, extended their TDY until June 28th in order to assist with the repair of antenna system 053-054.

On June 22nd, (b) (6) and (b) (6) completed their 1-year internships as Radio Technician (trainees), and were separated from the mission. The station has begun the process of replacing them.

The new management's secretary, (b) (6), reported for duty on June 27th.

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

A classroom was assembled in House #1 to accommodate a 1-week class in Simplified Acquisitions, and a 3-day class in Statement of Work. A computer network was installed from the excess PCs removed from the recent computer upgrade to accommodate the training. Personnel from Botswana arrived to share in the instruction. The instructor from Management Concepts arrived from the USA, and the class began on June 4th and continued through June 13th.

Starting in May and continuing throughout June, the Antenna Maintenance Team completed a major overhaul of Array #3. This was performed under the leadership of (b) (6), a rigger from Botswana. Array #3 had extensive corrosion issues, due to its alignment with the prevailing sea breeze, and the fact that many components are original and 24 years old. The team worked 7 days a week, during all available good weather to complete this project and showed admirable dedication, initiative and safety. They replaced all bridle cables, bridle pendals, and maintenance cables on Antennas 9 through 15. They also

took the time to replace obstruction lamps on towers 14,15,17,18, and on the 20kW MW tower. It was quite a relief to have this project completed, and the Deputy Manager held a small party in their honor at (b) (6) hotel, before his departure.

Immediately after the classes, preparations began for another fuel delivery via the Marine Terminal. Temporary repairs were completed on the fuel hose, which was compromised from overpressure and also being 24 years old. The Regional Station Manager arrived from the USA in time to witness the fuel delivery. Meetings with representatives from DLA, the fuel contractor UCIG, and the subcontracted ship company were held at the site on June 18th. These representatives were present to assure the quality of the fuel, and to observe STTS procedures in offloading the fuel.

The oil tanker arrived early on June 19th and operations began. The tanker moored in an unusual way, closer to shore. The old fuel hose held up to nearly the end of pumping, and then started to drip a small amount of fuel which remained small, and pumping was complete in the morning of June 20th. The Tanker required the services of the tugboat we keep on retainer to back out of the area, as he had moored in shallow water.

On June 28th, the Deputy Manager departed for Libreville to get the PKI card corrected for a spelling error. The PKI card is necessary for financial transaction at sites without OpenNet. This has been an ongoing problem for 6 months. Previously, the STTS Admin Management Specialist (b) (6) was successful in getting her card repaired by appearing in person at the Embassy in Libreville, so we have been functioning with her valid PKI card ever since. The Deputy Manager's PKI card appears to have had a new error introduced at the Embassy, even as the previous error was fixed. This will be a critical issue in one week, when a number of vacations are scheduled.

At the end of June, the replacement fuel hose arrived in port, and we were contemplating how to get it to STTS, as it is over-height, especially for the roads in Sao Tome, with all the low-hanging overhead lines.

Facilities performed their routine functions this month. Also, as discussed, the fuel-offload was successful with no injuries or spills.

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

June 4th – 7th, FSN Technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6), traveled to Rangoon to perform preventive and corrective maintenance on TVRO system at Public affairs Section, US Embassy Rangoon.

On June 18th, Station Manager (b) (6) and team traveled to Bangkok to visit the Public Relations Department, where they met with, (b) (6), Executive Director, Foreign Office and (b) (6), Executive Director, Radio Thailand. On the 19th, the team visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with (b) (6), Director of Public Diplomacy Information Division, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the visits was to discuss the 10 year extension of the Udorn Short Wave Agreement.

From June 20th - 30th, Germany FSNs (b) (6) were TDY in Udonthani to perform installation of the new slew controller system for the TCI antennas. The station greatly appreciates their outstanding effort in designing, building and commissioning this critical system. During the month, the Station received 45 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty five shipments for the month of July. Twelve shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and nine shipments were designated to Embassies including Dakar, Abuja, and Brazzaville. The Team coordinated four FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of shipping four Cisco receivers to the FEBC in Korea, and the pickup and shipment of two HPA’s from Kuwait to CPI Europe in The Netherlands for repair. Lastly, the Logistics team completed five deliveries from JCM to IBB and three pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 7/31/18, we have seven open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of July was 1236 and a total of 542 items inventoried. The Team added 25 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition cost of \$68,890. We also deleted 37 items from PIPS (none were Capital Assets) with a total acquisition value of \$ 125,308.13.
- The Property Management Team reports in July a delivery of Excess Furniture to GSA with a total amount of \$19,250. They also completed all requisitions for supply orders in July.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The 1071 M&R program has received 100% of the estimated budget allotment. All available allotted funds have been transferred to the overseas transmitting stations for station specific priority projects. We have been working with CON on three complex procurement actions: Replace Fire Alarm System in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$600k), Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k), and new A/E ID/IQ contract. To date, CON is still working on the contract award document for the Replacement of Fire Alarm System in Philippines and the Request for Proposal for the Greenville Chiller project. We requested a 6-months extension to the existing A/E ID/IQ contract since it was eminent that a new contract was not going to be awarded this FY. As a result, CON decided to stop work on the new A/E ID/IQ procurement action and re-start on FY19. Other M&R contract activities include: award of task order for post construction administration services for Tinang Fire Alarm project and REKTS O&M contract modification for CNMI urgent antenna work will be awarded soon. An additional \$154K was made available to M&R program when the rescission was lifted. We transferred the funds to Greenville to support incoming feeder’s replacement that will be serving 419F transmitters. The FY19 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations last month with submissions due on August 27, 2018. Greenville submitted their M&R Project Plan for FY 2019-2021 and the 2018 Deferred Maintenance Report on July 18, 2018.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2018

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

This was one of the finest months as the transmitter availability reached the 100% mark. The transmitter plant had a small program outage due to a lost connection from the NCC. Due to their diligent work, kudos are in order for our fine technical staff for maintaining these transmitters during the connection loss.

This month the station was visited by the US Embassy Health Unit personnel, (b) (6) and (b) (6) to conduct CPR and First Aid training for IBB staff.

On the 12th, the US Ambassador (b) (6) arrived at the Station to award employees 10, 20 and 25 year certificates, and also to recognize those who have excelled in their duties. Ambassador (b) (6) congratulated all the IBB staff on supporting the US Mission. The Ambassador toured the Station and bid farewell to the staff as this is the end of his tour as the U.S. Ambassador to Botswana.

On the 19th, the Station was visited by U.S. Embassy Management Officer, (b) (6) who toured the Station and met with the IBB staff.

On the 26th, the Station was also visited by Human Resource Officer, (b) (6) and the U.S. Defense Attaché who also took aerial pictures of the Station from their C-12 King Air. The HR Officer (b) (6) had the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with the Station's Plant Supervisor (b) (6) and Management Admin. Specialist (b) (6).

On the 31st, the Station Manager travelled to Embassy Gaborone to meet with the new DCM (b) (6) and to also attend the Country team meeting. During the Country Team meeting, the Station Manager gave a BBG mission brief to Senator Jeff Flake from Arizona.

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

The station's antenna BR22 suffered a broken radiating element on July 17th that caused a small field fire below the antenna. The Black Jack volunteer fire department quickly responded and extinguished the fire. Repair is pending.

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

The Station Manager departed post for TDY to Washington DC on July 7th and returned July 30th.

The Tajikistan Engineer liaison, (b) (6), visited the station to discuss various issues, such as the new contract for the technical support provided by the IBB Germany to Tajikistan, and the maintenance/painting of MW antenna.

After discussing recent events with TEBD, we learned that the 13°E Eutelsat 13B upgrade is accelerated. All TVRO sites have already been equipped with MPEG4 and DVBS2-capable WELLAV UHM16R receivers, in addition to several radio stations, which required new IRDs due to defects. However, the

other 162 pending stations need to be upgraded in a timely manner. In-house review of the situation resulted in the formulation of a task sheet developed by Network Support Chief, (b) (6), which was forwarded to TEBD.

On the weekend of July 9th, we noticed that the carrier containing RFI Russian was completely dropped on Eutelsat 9B at 9°E. RFI Russian is transmitted via VC16 on the live content stream from Lampertheim to NCC. The NCC and RFI were notified immediately. However, it took 4 days to receive the information by RFI that the carrier on 9°E was terminated and the program is now available on 13°E, however with channel ID RFI Tbilisi versus RFI Russia. Once all information was available it took about a half hour before the program on VC16 was restored. By the end of the month, we did not receive any feedback from the NCC if any language group is picking up the RFI Russian language program.

Lampertheim still needs to maintain the 11m VERTEX antenna. However, to have the antenna available for a new dish reflector coating we need the appropriate backup in place. Therefore, another test uplink has been performed via Kuwait. Although the NET ID in Kuwait was updated from, 1 to 101 and NIT migrated, the IRDs in Dubai required a reset to lock on the carrier and GLOBECOMM monitoring equipment at the Makarios site. It did not lock on the carrier despite the fact that other sites on 7°W Eutelsat confirmed that the signal was available. At the Lampertheim site, we did not observe any problem in locking to the signal either via our own uplink or Kuwait's. The only discrepancy we observed was via the AXON system. Further investigation will take place.

Due to an air pressure leak, we lost the primary dehydrator for the satellite uplink systems. Luckily, there was a spare available. A quick replacement and adjustment cured the problem. The big surprise was that a new DIELECTRIC MH200 dehydrator costs about \$8,827 – information from DutchVally. Initial thoughts to procure a new unit had been put on hold and we will try to fix the old unit first. However, a two-year maintenance kit for two dehydrators costs close to \$3,000.

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

The first half of the month was quiet and uneventful except for the contractors working on office refurbishment projects. On the 16th of July, the Fire Alarm was tested by the Specialized Security Systems Co. On the 19th of July. The acting Station Manager, Manager, Clifford George, called a small gathering to honor two employees, (b) (6) and (b) (6), with the Gold Medal Award that they received last year.

The summer season is at its peak, and Sandstorms have descended upon Kuwait. The Station has been consumed by daily Sandstorms, and sand dunes have sprung up on the access roads. The cost to remove accumulated sand is starting to add up, and impact our budget. The Station Manager, (b) (6) returned on the 23rd of July from the U.S.

On the 26th of July, the Locally Employed Staff (LES) attended a Town Hall Meeting to receive very welcoming news from the Ambassador:

a) Four of the LES's children received scholarship from the Kuwait government. The Embassy took up this matter with the Kuwait government to grant four (4-year) full ride college scholarships for eligible LES family members. One of the awardees of the scholarship was (b) (6), IBB employee (b) (6) daughter.

b) Also, there will be a 19.5 percent increase across the board in salaries for all LES. It was the result of a combined effort by the DCM, Management Counselor and ICASS personnel. The DCM, Management Counselor advised that the benefits would begin with the Pay Period starting on the 22nd.

The Embassy held a “Weapons of Mass Destruction” training course from the 29th through 31st of July. All station staff attended the training on one of the three days.

The month ended with a farewell lunch for our retiring Radio Technician, (b) (6), who has decided to spend his retired life in the Philippines, has served with the IBB for nine years, in addition to seven years with the Embassy.

FM Station Updates for the Month of July 2018:

Contract Awards and Renewals:

1. A multiyear FM Agreement was sent to Bahrain for signature on July 30th, 2018.
2. The following FM Station O&M Agreements/Contracts will need to be renegotiated in the next few months:
 - a. Burkina Faso (A “Bridge” PO thru October was awarded)
 - b. Morocco (A new contract will be awarded before October 2018)
 - c. Sierra Leone (A “Bridge” PO to be awarded in August 2018)

The Kuwait Transmitting Station is working with the Washington Office of Contracts to ensure that we continue FM broadcasting in these countries without any interruptions.

Facilities Section: During the month of July, the facilities Rigger team repaired the broken feed line on antenna A2 and installed guy wires on BP 7 poles for transmission line of the new antenna. The rigger team also helped with sand removal from the main entrance to the back gate entrance, moved the new office furniture into three refurbished Admin offices, and cleaned all camera lenses around the site.

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

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Washington Office of Security visited REKTS on July 17th to conduct the tri-annual security survey. The survey consisted of reviewing the previous survey, examining current security equipment, and assessing relocation of the surveillance recording and monitoring equipment cabinets, which may impact current security equipment. Security measures reviewed included Access Control, CCTV, Perimeter fencing, E&E radio equipment, and guard control. The Survey team recommended changes and considerations including replacing the access controls at the main pedestrian entrance on Saipan, minor repairs to barb wire on Tinian, additional cameras, CCTV placement, and reviving the turn-style gate project. It was also recommended that we consider a more robust guard staff due to the threat potential from influx of Chinese tourists.

On July 19th, (b) (6) met with (b) (7)(A)

IBB Director of Security (b) (6) arrived on July 30th (b) (7)(A)

On July 23rd, (b) (6) officially assumed full duties and responsibilities as Resident Engineer for the Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station, Marianas.

On July 24th at 22:30, Tinian experienced a power outage. Inspections revealed cracks and burn marks on both the Meters and POTs, and compromised equipment and recent monsoon conditions seem to be the culprit. For fear of further damage to the feed line components, the station opted to remain on generator power until the Utility Company is able to properly investigate the source of these innumerable failures. After negotiating a plan and determining who should burden the cost IAW the MOU, the Utility Company is putting together a plan to remedy the problem. Monsoon rains continue to delay repairs.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Saipan Station on July 10th, 11th, 17th, and the 25th for O&M Contract surveillance and other administrative duties to include the familiarization training with (b) (6). (b) (6) traveled to Saipan on July 28th in conjunction with his transfer to the Philippines, and will remain on Saipan until proposed transfer date of August 15th.

(b) (4) traveled to Tinian Station on July 9th, 16th, 19th, 24th, 26th, and 31st for O&M Contract surveillance and other administrative duties.

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

(b) (6), the Station Manager, traveled to Poro on the morning of July 20th for usual oversight. The afternoon of the same day, (b) (6) proceeded to Baguio City to represent the station during the US Mission's Independence Day celebration, together with Supervisory Telecommunications Engineer (b) (6).

(b) (6), Facilities Supervisor, departed the Philippines for Rest and Recuperation on July 14th. He will return on August 4th.

On July 10th, (b) (6) of Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) had a meeting with Mr. Martin regarding the PORO site closure.

On the 16th, (b) (6) of U.S. Embassy entered the station to check the LGF/UCF Radio. (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6) from BBG Security visited the station from July 24th – 27th, which included a day trip to Poro on the 25th. Collectively, the team completed a station security assessment and reviewed our mission background check policies. On the 27th, the team, accompanied by (b) (6), visited the US Embassy Regional Security Office to discuss the findings of their trip and other topics of importance. On July 19th, multiple contractors visited the Tinang station to attend a pre-quotation conference for three maintenance service contracts. The conference was held at the IBB Tinang station. Contractors were given a site tour to show work locations, followed by a detailed explanation of each solicitation package. (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the

Embassy Contracts & Procurement (C&P) office also attended the conference, and joined Mr. Martin to participate in the Q&A period.

FACILITIES:

The Installation of the new VRF HVAC system in the TDY quarters was completed. Two (2) outdoor and twelve (12) indoor units were installed. The new system is programmable and has a central control unit which enables us to reduce usage while saving energy when units are not occupied. The new HVAC systems add redundancy and greatly improve air quality inside of the TDY quarters.

The FMO completed installation of two (2) cabinet type HVAC systems in Master Control. New units will serve as backup systems to support 24/7 master control operation. The FMO also completed renovations of the guard house at Gate One. The Guard room and restroom interior were renovated by installing new flooring and plumbing, and the building interior and exterior were cleaned and repainted.

ADMIN:

On July 5th, the station interviewed several candidates for our vacant Antenna Equipment Technician position. (b) (6) was selected and is now processing medical and security clearances with the US embassy. The station also completed interviews for our two Radio Technician LES-4 trainee positions. Three potential candidates were ranked, but we are waiting for Embassy HR to finalize the selection and issue offer letters before we announce the winners.

Representatives from Holiday Inn Makati and Baguio visited the site on the 5th to discuss proposed hotel corporate rates for potential use by TDYers.

July 10th, (b) (6) had his Retirement Orientation in HR U.S Embassy Manila.

The station is currently undergoing a staff realignment to make better use of available positions. A Facilities Supply Clerk is being shifted to Admin, which will enable us to forego filling a needed vacancy in that department. Two drivers previously assigned to Admin will be shifted to the Facilities Motor Pool, where they can better focus on vehicle scheduling and low-level maintenance issues. Finally, the two Electronics Technicians assigned to the NSTSU section will be shifted to the Transmitter Plant. One will be assigned to the transmitter maintenance section, while the other will become part of our Telecommunications unit.

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

The station experienced feed-related problems on July 28th and 29th due to technical issues at NCC. Approximately 0.07 hours of Amharic, 0.54 hours of Hausa and 0.20 hours of Kinyarwanda/Kirundi programs were lost.

Three Operational Memos were received and implemented during the month. Operational Memo A18-054 was not implemented due to late arrival.

The new floating fuel hose arrived in port and was transported to the site on a trailer. The reel was 14 feet high and weighed nearly 5 tons with the support structure. A crew and police were required to clear the way and raise electrical wires across the road. The Station Power Plant staff and the B&G team unrolled the old hose from the powered reel within the Marine Terminal building, and laboriously installed the new hose on the powered reel. This replacement hose is 150' longer than the old hose, which will aid in

connecting to the oil tankers, which are continually increasing in size. Safety is greatly enhanced as the old hose was overdue for replacement, and had minor leaks that could have become catastrophic.

The HVAC team worked on the reverse osmosis devices in the water plant. They replaced the electrical shutoff valve in R/O #3 and replaced the motor load control in R/O #2.

The Antenna Maintenance team corrected a fault on antenna #05 by replacing a limit switch and making adjustments. They cleared a fault on antenna #01/04 by replacing a transistor and a fuse. They set up the Spider system on antenna #09 (Tropical band) for replacement of broken and corroded vertical wires and support clamps on the screen side. They also replaced burned-out obstruction lamps 116w and 500W on towers #03/04/07/08/09 in array #01/02 and MW tower 600 KW. Preventive maintenance continues on tower #03, including replacement of some cross braces, scraping, removing rust and priming.

In addition to their regular support to several station sections, the B&G team has started the roof coating project. The Canteen picnic area roof was the "test bed" for the new materials and equipment. This corrugated metal roof was in the worst condition of all, and now looks and performs well. The coating is intended to seal leaks, prevent rust, and extend the life of the expensive standing-seam roofs of the Butler buildings (TX/Admin, Power plant, and Warehouse). Additionally, the front gate fence project is more than half way done. This project is intended to discourage late-night congregation of local residents to the lighted areas outside of our gates.

All the Station's sections accomplished their regular inspections and routine tasks in a responsible and safe way this month. There were no accidents or injuries, and no power outages occurred.

The solicitation for B&G services in Sao Tome was posted on FedBizOpps site on July 3. The deadline for submission of proposals was July 17.

On July 13th, the Station's TEP had two evaluation meetings for the Cleaning and Janitorial services and the Driver services solicitations posted on FedBizOpps back in April.

The US Embassy Libreville Health Practitioner (b) (6) visited Sao Tome on July 15th and 19th. Accompanied by Deputy Station Manager and the US Embassy employee in Sao Tome, she visited the public Central Hospital and consulted with (b) (6). She, also visited the Agua Grande public healthcare center, and the private clinic ARS Medica. (b) (6) also conducted First Aid training sessions for all station staff and contractors on July 17th and 18th.

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

While operations were for the most part normal, July proved to be a very busy month. During the week of July 16th the State Department Office of Inspector General conducted a station audit as part of their annual independent financial statement audit. The team included (b) (6) and (b) (6) with Kearney & Company, P.C. and (b) (6) with the Department of State Office of Inspector General. The team was accompanied by (b) (6), BBG Director of Financial Operations. The audit went very well, with no discrepancies noted.

On July 11th, the station received a visit from (b) (6), Deputy Director-General, Thai Government Public Relations Department. Discussions were held on the upcoming 10-year extension to the station's bi-lateral agreement, which (b) (6) indicated his full support of granting.

On July 24th, the Udon station hosted 120 middle school children from Sawang Dan Din School.

During the month, the Station received 45 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of forty two shipments for the month of August. Eleven shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and three shipments were designated to Embassies including Kabul, Djibouti, and Brazzaville. The Team coordinated one import from Zurich going to Sao Tome and Seven FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of delivering VOA vests to the State department for Venezuela, shipping tubes from Guam to Econoco for repair, sending personal items and office supplies to (b) (6) in NY, and sending out VOA promotional items to the State Department for the IBB Marketing Office in Thailand. Lastly, the Logistics team completed six deliveries from JCM to IBB and five pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 8/31/18, we have four open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s transactions in PIPS for the month of August totaled 2,152, with a total of 931 items inventoried. The Team added 32 items to PIPS (1 was a Capital Asset with a value of \$1,590,946.39) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$1,737,822.33. We also deleted 32 Items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$36,859.00) with a total acquisition value of \$123,369.54.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The M&R program received 100% of the estimated budget allotment. All available allotted funds were transferred to the overseas transmitting stations for station specific priority projects. We have been working with CON on three complex procurement actions: Replace Fire Alarm System in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$600k), Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k), and new A/E ID/IQ contract. To date, the contract for the Replacement of Fire Alarm System in Philippines was awarded and the kick-off meeting has been schedule for the week of September 24th. The solicitation for the Greenville Chiller project was posted with proposals currently under review. CON was able to extend the existing A/E ID/IQ contract for 6 months and will start the procurement process for the new contract on FY19. Other M&R activities included: site visit to CNMI for discussions with contractor on upcoming antenna work and completion of Biblis and Lampetheim arc flash analysis. In addition, the FY19 M&R Project Call was sent to the stations and all responses have been received. We’ll be developing the FY19 3-yr M&R plan soon.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

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

This was one of the finest months as the transmitter availability reached the mark. The Transmitter Plant had a small glitch due to the program loss from NCC. Kudos are in order for our fine technical staff for maintaining these transmitters.

The rigging team is continuing to install the replacement ladders on the four MW towers. The towers' ladders were painted prior to installation. However, the installation is at a standstill due to the U-Bolts that are the incorrect size. We are working on getting the correct U-bolts delivered.

In regards to the lease agreement, the Station received a call from the Ministry of Lands and Housing indicating, they will give us the required banking details to transfer two years of lease payments. The Ministry of Lands and Housing hopes that the land lease signing in 2026 will have the correct authorized Government of Botswana personnel present.

On the 8th, the Regional Station Manager travelled to the US Embassy in Gaborone to meet with the new Deputy Chief of Missions, (b) (6), and to attend the in-Country Team meeting. During the in-Country Team meeting, the Station Manager gave a USAGM mission brief to Senator Jeff Flake from Arizona. The next day, seventeen new Brigadier Generals and two retired Four Star Generals were given a USAGM mission brief by the Regional Station Manager.

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

Operations for the month of August were normal. The Antenna BR22 was repaired and returned to service. Staff is preparing for upcoming placement of Continental 419F transmitters and PSM units.

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

During the month of August we engaged in a visit from two Afghan officials from Radio & TV of Afghanistan, (b) (6) – the Director General, (b) (6) – the Director of Foreign Relation, as well as USAGM's engineer liaison – (b) (6), to discuss various issues on Afghanistan.

The Station welcomed a new staff member, (b) (6), who came on board on August 20th as a Budget Analyst.

Central Europe experienced a heatwave of up to 100 degrees F. Even with the extreme temperatures we were able to start the project of coating most fiber and metal satellite antenna reflectors. The reflectors had been cleaned with steam and later coated with the two-component non reflective white color. The results are amazing. The dish surfaces look brand new. After the paint job, we inspected the satellite dishes and performed adjustments when required. For the next month, we're planning a lubrication job of all joints and bearings.

During the month, the satellite group performed a scheduled swap of all HPAs to balance the on airtime. HPAs of IOR B-Pol and Eutelsat 13° have been switched from HPA-1 to HPA-2. In particular, we

detected that the IOR B-pol HPA would not copy the power when switched. We contacted CPII regarding this finding and received some new firmware for the controller. However, since LAM is online with both HPAs we do not want to upgrade the controller when there is no backup available.

On August 7th at about UTC 6:04 am, we noticed an abnormality on the program distribution via the monitoring option in the office. A quick check with AXON determined that both prime and backup feeds via fiber (Telco#1 and MW Hessencom) did not contain any program. Therefore, we had no program available for IOR B-pol (Intelsat 907) (in particular the special MBN program feed). IOR B-pol is however the source for Eutelsat 7°W via Makarios site, Cyprus. We could not call D.C. via VoIP. Plans to rush for a backup via Kuwait failed since VoIP was down. We notified the Germany LAN and Network Gurus on the IP problems. Now all seems to be ok on the PRTG, but we had no program content. UTC 06:11 program was restored. RFO unknown.

At UTC 6:56 am again all programs were down. No content delivery via any fiber link. We contacted the NCC via cell phone. In addition, we noticed that email and VOIP was down, which led to the assumption there was a problem in D.C. While looking for backup we contacted (b) (6) in Kuwait via cell phone with the request on available IP links in Kuwait. Yowwana later confirmed that Kuwait also lost the special IP based MBN stream. Consequently, backup from Kuwait was not possible.

After evaluating the situation, assets were available to restore the broadcasts for the Middle East. Lampertheim, is equipped with TVRO systems of various satellites like IOR, AOR and Hotbird. These systems contain the MBN and SAWA streams. It was obvious that something happened with the fiber since more locations beside Germany were affected. Lampertheim recommended activation of the backup scenario and remapping of the IOR B-pol system from IP-based input to Satellite program via the AOR Intelsat 907. VCs and PIDs are different via Satellites so a transfer is a bit complex. However, we maintain a good chart for comparison and verification of audio channel content. Once we got the OK to go ahead from Washington for UTC 10:00, we implemented immediately the mapping of the required video and audio channel PIDs. Due to the chart information, all IOR B-Pol program mapping was complete by UTC 10:10. (b) (6) verified that all FM and AM sites on IOR B-pol and Eutelsat 7°W (Palestine and Iraq) had been back on air with the correct audio.

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

On August 1st, two of the LES staff, (b) (6) and (b) (6) a, attended the First Responder training conducted by the U.S. Embassy. Radio Technician, (b) (6) attended “Contracting Officer’s Representative” training in Washington DC from the 26th August through 30th of August, 2018.

The vacant position of Administrative Assistant was filled by (b) (6), effective the 5th of August 2018. Interviews were conducted for the position of Supervisory Radio Technician. (b) (6) was selected to fill the vacant position W.E.F September 2, 2018. (b) (6)

The Station welcomed (b) (6), who arrived at Post the 15th of August to assume the office of Deputy Station Manager.

On the 22nd of August, the Station Manager conveyed news from the CEO & Director, Mr. John F. Lansing that BBG has officially changed its name to U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM). All signatures now reflect the new name.

Station's Fire Alarm was tested by USAGM staff on the 19th of August, and it was found to be nonoperational. The Fire Alarm maintenance company, Specialized Security Systems was called in to fix the defect. The routine maintenance was again conducted on the 27th of August.

Facilities Section:

During the month of August, the facilities riggers team started installing grounding rod at the base pole for transmission line of the new antenna.

The Rigger teams conducted a monthly inspection of the lighting inside the building and changed all the burst fluorescent tubes.

The Rigger team continued helping in sand removal on the main road from main entrance to the back gate entrance.

The Rigger team discovered a water leak on the water line from the station's incoming water meter to the front gate. The team had to dig the soil up to see the damage on the line.

The team delivered the office furniture in the new manager's office.

The Rigger team cleaned all the camera lenses around the site as part of the monthly activities.

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

Tinian Station continued August operations on generator power which began July 24th. On August 8th, suspect utility equipment was by-passed due to age, corrosion, and apparent water intrusion. The utility meter was severely corroded and was also by-passed. It was agreed to restore the utility at the unmetered average rate in accordance with the memorandum of understanding. Normal utility service was restored thereafter. No subsequent outages have occurred since utility was restored.

(b) (6) reported to the Saipan Station as the new RRC Site Supervisor.

(b) (6) and Family departed Saipan on August 15th in route to new duty station in Philippines.

(b) (6) from the TSI Washington arrived in Saipan August 15th. (b) (6) attended the antenna repair kickoff meeting on August 20th. He also performed antenna and equipment inspections on both Saipan and Tinian. (b) (6) departed Saipan on August 23.

On August 24th, (b) (6) attended a meeting with the CNMI Department of Public Lands (DPL) to discuss Saipan Station land lease agreement. Specifically, DPL agreed to seek a waiver for the required solicitation in efforts to establish a new lease with U.S. Agency for Global Media, Saipan Station.

The Northern Marianas Islands experienced two typhoons in August. Neither passed close enough to Saipan or Tinian to cause significant damage. Only minor damage occurred and repairs were made immediately. Saipan and Tinian experienced a 6.6 magnitude earthquake on August 29th followed by several smaller tremors. RRC performed visual inspections on all buildings, tanks, water pipe lines, diesel fuel pipe lines, heat exchanger pipe lines and antenna transmission coaxial lines, and antennas for any damaged caused by the earthquake. No abnormalities were found.

Tinian:

Tinian Station was on generator power from July 24th until August 8th due to irregularities with the incoming feed system. RRC was manned 24/7 due to this issue. The Station utility was restored at flat rate on August 8th and will remain on the unmetered rate until the metering system is repaired. There have been no further power interruptions following the removal of the faulty power line equipment by CUC.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Saipan Station on July 28 for administrative duties and to prepare for transfer. (b) (6) and Family departed Saipan and transferred to the Philippines on August 15.

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station on August 10th, 15th, 22nd, 27th, and the 30th for O&M contract surveillance and other administrative duties.

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

(b) (6), Station Manager, traveled to Poro on August 6th thru 9th and August 28th thru 30th to preform oversight packing for the closure of the site.

The new Deputy Manager (b) (6), with EFM Margo Gifford, reported on August 16th to the station. A welcome townhall was held on August 17th.

On August 7th, a total of 46 students and instructors from the Technological Institute of the Philippines arrived at the station for their educational tour. On the 15th, (b) (6) from US Embassy Manila arrived on the station.

On August 30th, the pack-out of the PORO site ended. Station Manager and pack-out team from WDC, Tinang and Poro had a last luncheon on site.

The annual representation event for the Local Barangay Council Members and Day Care Teachers from the five surrounding Barangays of San Juan, San Agustin, Tinang, Sta. Rosa and Sto Niño was held on August 31st, at the Twin Eights Resort, Concepcion, Tarlac.

FACILITIES

Poro Transmitters and equipment were packed and stored in five forty-foot containers and moved to the Tinang site. Unloading was successfully completed on August 30th. Due to heavy rains producing strong water current, the one culvert base at the perimeter bridge was washed away. FMO placed boulders underneath the base and riprap to prevent collapse and further erosion. Repairs will be completed during dry season starting in December.

ADMIN

On July 5th, the station interviewed several candidates for our vacant Antenna Equipment Technician position. (b) (6) was selected and is now processing medical and security clearances with the US embassy. The station also completed interviews for our two Radio Technician LES-4 trainee positions. Three potential candidates were ranked, but we are waiting for Embassy HR to finalize the selection and issue offer letters before we announce the winners.

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

August was an incredibly busy month for the admin section, since two key people were on vacation throughout. The remaining staff scrambled to process many last-minute fuel-related requisitions of needed materials. This included a small boat, a new pump for fuel spills, many small items for the refurbishment of the surge tank at the Marine Terminal, etc. Additionally, many quotes were obtained on general supplies in the event of surplus funds. The Sao Tome admin staff members are to be congratulated for their hard work throughout the month, which included a two week loss of access to Coast and RFMS programs.

The roof coating project has finally begun. The picnic shelter roof was used as a test for the coating material, as it was by far the worst roof at the site, and would be no loss if ruined somehow. The powerful spray unit was set up and calibrated until primer and coating were applied consistently. B&G paint staff, with an independent contractor for supervision, learned the job quickly. Next was the actual first job: the Powerplant roof. Two coats of primer and two coats of the silicone coating were applied, and the roof looks very nice. Besides prevention of leaks and corrosion, the coating is known to reduce inside building heat loads. Consequently, there should be a noticeable energy savings and reduction of A/C run-time achieved once all building roofs are coated.

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

Operations were normal for the month of August.

Station hosted firefighting training at the Udorn station from August 6th thru 8th and CPR and First Aids training on August 20th thru the 22nd. All Employees at Udorn site participated in the training courses. On August 8th thru the 10th, the ISC Bangkok installed OpenNet work stations at the Udorn site.

Due to the 2018 Thai National Science Week, 8 neighborhood schools brought their students to the Udon station. The Station hosted over 500 students and teachers during the week. During the month, the Station received 30 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of forty two shipments for the month of September. Ten shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and seven shipments were designated to Embassies including N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, and Addis Ababa. The Team coordinated two imports – one from Zurich going to Sao Tome and the second from Manila going to ATP. There were seven total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of delivering equipment to Taleb Shamky in Baghdad, and 2 Germany shipments going to Ouagadougou and N'djamena. Lastly, the Logistics team completed eight deliveries from JCM to HQ and three pickups from HQ to JCM. As of 9/28/18, we have thirteen open Requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of September was 1088 and a total of 380 items inventoried. The Team added 25 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$139, 442.12. We also deleted 63 Items from PIPS (10 of

the items were a Capital Asset with a value of (\$398,595.75) with a total acquisition value of \$654,331.86.

M&R: A project completion report has been developed for the FY18 Year M&R program. Funds were obligated for 16 projects at the transmitting stations. At HQ, a contract modification for antenna work in Tinian and the contract to replace the fire alarm system in Philippines were awarded. Kick-off meetings on site have already been held for both projects. In addition, work has started on site for the installation of the new MW tower in Sao Tome. Unfortunately, the Greenville Chiller project was deferred to FY19 due to funding and timing issues. Responses to the FY19 M&R Project Call have been received and compiled. Review of the M&R proposed projects is in progress and we'll be meeting soon. After the review is completed, the FY19 3-yr M&R plan will be presented to management for approval.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2018

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

On the 20th of the month, the Regional Station Manager travelled to the US Embassy Gaborone to attend Ambassador (b) (6) farewell.

From the 22nd through the 27th, the Regional Station Manager travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa for official business.

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

The E.R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of September was 99.97%. Overall transmission availability was 99.86% which includes loss of station power and program feed from WDC.

Hurricane Florence passed through the area causing devastating floods to many of the surrounding counties. Fortunately, the station did not receive the impact of the storm as was originally predicted. On September 14th, just as the storm was approaching landfall, the station lost all commercial power. The auxiliary generator immediately came on line and provided power to the station until September 18th when commercial power was restored. Antenna B32 and BR20 were both damaged but were quickly repaired. A few broken insulators remain to be repaired in some of the other antennas which are not currently on the program schedule.

Two Continental 419F and one Continental F2 transmitters were placed in the transmitter hall and are ready for the next phase of the installation.

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

September was a busy month getting the procurements done, closing the books, etc. Germany's funding was well expended at 99.96% of the total four Allotments. The Manager attended the bi-weekly Agency Heads meeting with Frankfurt Consul General and informed all about the change of name from BBG to USAGM, and briefed them on BBG Germany and region's activities.

The Director General, his Deputy from AOOT Teleradiokom in Tajikistan, and the IBB Engineer Liaison—all of whom were on their way to the Broadcast Conference Fair in Amsterdam—had a stopover in Frankfurt to meet with the Station Manager at Lampertheim to discuss mutual cooperation, etc.

The Station Manager and FSNs visited Prague and met with key technical staff of RFE/RL in Prague, and then visited the BCI/Amsterdam, where the Manager met with the staff of FMM's representative there and had a small discussion of technical issues.

Germany's staff travelled to Cyprus, the Philippines, Sao Tome and Djibouti during September to provide technical support in automation, and on the Call Manager system in Sao Tome, and commissioning of the newly installed Chiller in Djibouti. They also met with the Director General of Radio & TV of Djibouti.

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

Station operations were routine in September, and Station availability was 99.92% for the month with 5,787 scheduled broadcast hours.

Station had a few LES employee departures in September 2018: a) Supervisory Radio Technician, (b) (6) resigned with effect from September 1, 2018. (b) (6) was hired from the Philippines Station in March 2008. She decided to return to the Philippines; b) Store Keeper, (b) (6)

(b) (6), American Embassy DCM, visited the station on the 17th of September.

(b) (6) attended COR and Simplified Acquisition Procedures training in Washington DC from September 17th through September 28th, 2018. (b) (6) attended Cisco IP Telephony Video – Part I (CIPTV1) course in Dubai from the 23rd through the 27th of September.

(b) (6) arrived from Washington DC on September 22nd and departed September 26th. Martyn did a trial and evaluation of new audio processing equipment in Kuwait's MW and SW transmitters.

Specialized Security Systems performed Fire Alarm System maintenance on the 25th of September.

On September 30th, the Station closed the books on FY-2018 spending with a total Obligations of 12,808,831 USD.

FM Contract Awards and Renewals:

1. A multiyear FM Agreement was sent to Bahrain for signature on July 30th, 2018. The Government of Bahrain's office of the "Ministry of Information Affairs" (MIA) responded to the Agreement on 13th September with a few contract changes before they will sign it. USAGM has reviewed the proposed changes and drafted a response which is being reviewed by Legal. As soon as this review by the legal office of USAGM is done, a response will be forwarded to MIA.

2. The following FM Station O&M Agreements/Contracts were awarded: a. JRTV Option #12 on 16th of September 2018; b. Hargesia Option #4 on 18th of September 2018; c. RTNB Burundi Option #4 on 18th of September 2018; and d. Ivory Coast A/C Maintenance Contract on 24th of September 2018

Kuwait Transmitting Station continues to work with Office of Contracts in Washington, to ensure that we continue FM broadcasting in the following countries without any interruptions: Morocco, Burkina Faso, Iraq, and Lebanon (Hi-Tech)

Facilities Section:

During the month of September, the facilities Rigger Team was still working on the grounding rod at the base pole for transmission line of the new antenna.

The Rigger team also accomplished the following: conducted a monthly inspection on the Street light pole Junction Boxes, with 80% of the street lights completed; conducted monthly preventive maintenance

on Delta barriers; conducted monthly preventive maintenance on Warehouses, and the M.O.C building; and cleaned all the camera lenses around the site as part of the monthly activities.

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

Both Tinian and Saipan Stations continue to be impacted by an active Typhoon season and monsoonal rains. Typhoon Mangkhut passed just south of REKTS on September 10th. Wind gusts exceeding 75 knots on Tinian damaged 10 antennas. No structural damage reported, but repairs will likely take 7-8 weeks. Aforementioned scheduled repairs have delayed field verification and measurements by the sub-contractor for VCI Mod 8 to replace structural halyard wire ropes. Field verification and measurements are now scheduled for mid-November. Ultimately, this will delay the actual work as well. Rain continues to be a factor in scheduling repairs. The transmitter building and the power plant building roof ridge caps on Tinian were also badly damaged. Temporary repairs have been made but ridge cap replacement will be required on both buildings. Some Commonwealth Utility poles also sustained damage. While none of the utility poles were in the vicinity of the site, they did affect our feeder and caused several outages. Additional scheduled outages were required to replace poles.

(b) (6) traveled to Washington D.C. for training September 14th and returned on the 24th.

(b) (6) arrived onboard September 15th to coordinate and assist with Network repairs and upgrades. (b) (6) from the Global Network arrived on September 18th. The team replaced the 152 Network cisco switches, Cisco IPSEC router, and installed Cisco wireless access points for the 152 networks. They also terminated all Cat6 cables into the server racks for both stations. (b) (6) departed on September 27th.

The Admin staff was able to commit and obligate its FY-18 funds by September 21st, 2018. Fiscal year-end closeout was hectic but staff was able to complete funding the Station's priority requirements such as the O&M Contract SCA Adjustments for Option Years One and Two; obligating funds for and ordering through DLA Energy diesel fuels for Saipan and Tinian; and obligating funds for and placing a number of purchase card orders to meet the Purchase Card ordering deadline of 09/21/2017. In addition, requisitions for requirements funded in PTS, such as the PR for the repair of the Saipan generator, procurement of a dry cooler for the Tinian ABB transmitters, and others were also completed before the end of the fiscal year. Working diligently to close out the fiscal year, (b) (6)'s efforts were praiseworthy and commendable.

PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION: The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

(b) (6), the Station Manager, traveled to Poro on September 27th – 29th to finalize site preparations and meet with LUECO, the station's commercial power provider, regarding reduction of the existing rate structure. This meeting ended a tumultuous week for the four LES staff who were subject to a RIF on September 28th. The crew, (b) (6), traveled to the US Embassy on the 25th and 26th to complete the embassy check-out process and receive individual benefits briefings. On the 26th, the group, along with (b) (6) and (b) (6) Admin Unit Supervisor, also met with Ambassador (b) (6) who presented each a Certificate of Appreciation.

On the 27th, they traveled to the Tinang station to attend our annual awards ceremony and complete their station check-out. Finally, the group joined (b) (6) at the Poro site on their last day, September 28th, to basically hand over the keys. With nearly 130-years of service between them, this last week certainly

brought its fair share of emotion. They went out with pride and satisfaction knowing that they provided their all to the mission. The site, now gutted of its transmitter, primary backup generator, and all USG property of value, is now under the watchful eye of the embassy local guard force and a skeleton B&G crew.

Members of the station Management Team attended briefings at the US Embassy on the 5th and 6th to familiarize themselves with the new Merit Based Compensation (MBC) system. MBC is an alternative to the Wage Rate Increase system that allows for weighted annual performance-based increases, as opposed to the fixed annual step-increase issued for merely satisfactory performance. (b) (6), Supervisory Admin Management Specialist attended Overseas Payroll and Allowances Training in CGFS Bangkok on September 10th-14th and had a consultation in Udon with the Thailand Transmitting Station on September 17th and 18th. (b) (6), Facilities Supervisor departed the Philippines on September 29th, to Washington for consultation and to attend SAP and Advanced Leadership Skills Training.

From September 3rd to the 13th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from Germany were at the station to survey opportunities to fully automate the ABB/BBC transmitters. From the 3rd to the 14th, (b) (6) from Washington were also on site to install 152 network Access Points and replace 152 network switches. (b) (6) Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist, arrived at the station on the 24th to conduct a pre-construction meeting for the Tinang Fire Alarm project. US Embassy Medical Unit Team conducted CPR training and administered Influenza Immunizations on September 21st at the station. Also, from the embassy, (b) (6) from the IM section were on site from the 27th to 30th to work on our emergency radio network.

Vacancy announcements were posted via US Embassy's website for the following positions: Computer Management Assistant, 2 Radio Technicians, Transmitter Technician Mechanical (Mechanical Foreman) and Storekeeper. The US Embassy hiring process is now utilizing an Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) system, a 100% paperless web-based system where applicants are required to submit electronically.

Facilities

The Contractor successfully decommissioned and transferred the Poro Cummins 2250 kW generator from Poro site to Tinang. The generator is being stored in the Tinang power plant awaiting clearance from HQ Engineering to install in the Transmitter building. FMO riggers transferred the 2000-gallon gasoline fuel tank from Poro site to Tinang to be use for vehicle diesel fuel storage. Construction of the new concrete pad for the tank and installation will start in October. The Contractor, with support from FMO electricians, installed four 5hp Carrier HVAC systems in admin and management offices to cool down the spaces due to failure of the main HVAC system, which is awaiting arrival of parts from the CNMI. Two of the same systems were installed in the MCR and two in the TX hall, which has been a godsend for those working in those spaces.

In September our station awarded two construction contracts for police barracks expansion and diesel fuel concrete pad construction. Work for both projects shall commence in October.

Admin

On July 5th, the station interviewed several candidates for our vacant Antenna Equipment Technician position. (b) (6) was selected and is now processing medical and security clearances with the US embassy. The station also completed interviews for our two Radio Technician LES-4 trainee

positions. Three potential candidates were ranked, but we are waiting for Embassy HR to finalize the selection and issue offer letters before we announce the winners.

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

STTS had an outstanding month of availability. Transmitter Plant availability for the month was 100%. Station broadcast availability for September was 100%. Transmitter Plant had 2,631 program broadcast hours, with no program outages and 7 off/ons.

No Operational Memos were received during this month.

No power outage occurred during the reported month.

September was quite a busy month for the station, ending with a successful close to the fiscal year, and Mother Nature providing a nice rainbow the first morning of FY 19. It was reported to be a spectacular rainbow for this island.

On September 10th, the Safe Haven/Kitchen repair project started. By the conclusion of the month, the project was 80% complete. The composite stone countertop was broken during installation and was replaced temporarily while the contractor receives another.

On September 17th, the work on installing a false ceiling, lighting fixtures, and of 10 split A/C units in the TX Plant began. By month's end, the ceiling was in place, including A/C mounting points and the lights. Some tiles must not be installed until the decommissioning of the chiller system after the new split-unit type system is online.

On September 18th, the Communications Technology Broadcasting team arrived from South Africa for the installation of the new MW antenna tower. Their work is being inspected by two engineers from our HQ, (b) (6). The work was stalled due to delays in the final container shipment's arrival, compounded by the breakdown of the port's (only) crane. However, the pre-assembly of the tower sections was completed. The final container was released October 4th, after CTB hired their own private-owned crane to retrieve the container from the stack on the dock. Erection of the tower itself should commence October 8th.

On September 17th-20th, Weapons of Mass Destruction training was given to the station staff and contractors by the State Department's WMD Senior Instructor (b) (6).

On September 27th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) arrived from T/EOS/G for the installation of the new Cisco Unified Communications Manager. Work is proceeding.

B&F Specialist (b) (6) successfully closed out the fiscal year with a zero balance. Also in September, (b) (6) received a Spotlight Award for excellence in job performance.

Monthly activities of Facilities crews:

Antenna Maintenance crew:

- Set up the spider stage on Antenna #11 for the replacement of five corroded and broken vertical wires. (Not concluded. Work was stopped to position equipment and assist in construction of the replacement MW tower).

- Continued preventive maintenance on tower #3. (Scraping to remove rust, replacing the braces and priming up to the second platform).

Power Plant team:

On August 31st, 2018 at 2:35 PM, the Generator # 4 suddenly started smoking in the Exciter. The Power Plant team shut it down. After an investigation, it was discovered that a piece of metal from the armature had broken loose. The damage caused by the broken piece is irreparable. The Alternator and Exciter need to be replaced. The replacing parts acquisition process was completed, and the components are ordered.

HVAC team:

During month, the HVAC team: replaced two fan motors of chiller system #2; replaced the bypass valve copper tube in the chiller system #2; added refrigerant to the system 1 and 2 in the chiller (30 lbs); fixed lights that illuminate the flags at TAB (Replaced 6 lamps and 2 photo control and installed of new conduit); and added refrigerant to CU2 Master control A/C (12 lbs).

B&G team:

The B&G team successfully and safely supported other sections to complete their daily and scheduled tasks. As we are at the end of September and the beginning of October, the rainy season has started. This is the reason why the Roof Coating application at the HVAC/ Motor Pool Building is not completed (awaiting good weather to apply the second coating).

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

Operations were normal for the month of September.

September 10th-19th, Transmitter Plant Supervisor, (b) (6) and Senior Radio Technician, (b) (6) traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and South Korea to perform preventive, install and setup the TVRO system for remotely control and monitor.

September 16th-19th, (b) (6), Admin. Specialist from USAGM/PTS traveled to Udorn station for consultation.

September 26th, Deputy Director-General of the Thailand Public Relations Department, (b) (6), Executive Director of Radio Thailand and 9 Senior Staff from the Public Relations Department visited Udorn Site. The purpose of the visit is for the 1st 10 years extension of the Udorn Agreement.

During the month, the Station received 24 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty-two shipments for the month of October. Fourteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and fifteen shipments were designated to Embassies including Nairobi, Freetown, Dakar and Kinshasa. There were nine total

FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of picking up and delivering personal items to retiree Leo Keyen at his home address and 1 Germany shipment containing satellite equipment going to Freetown. Lastly, The Logistics team completed nine deliveries from JCM to IBB and three pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 10/29/18, we have seven open requisitions pending shipment to their location.

- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of September was 1451 and a total of 455 items inventoried. The Team added 38 items to PIPS with a total Acquisition Cost of \$139, 442.12. None of the items added were Capital Assets. We also deleted 37 Items from PIPS (8 of the items were Capital Assets with a value of \$5,021,707.92) with a total acquisition value of \$5,533,902.21.

M&R: Review of the responses to the FY19 M&R Project Call has been completed. The review comments are being incorporated, including selection of projects for FY19 implementation based on funding. Once this process is completed, a draft FY19 3-yr M&R plan will be presented to management for approval. We are expecting to meet with management in early November. Unfortunately, the contractor has stopped work on M&R Project Sao Tome New MW Tower. The contractor asked for help from the manufacturer to resolve plumb issues. The manufacturer’s representative is expected to arrive on site on November 3rd. Other M&R activities this month included Victor Ponce’s site visit to Greenville to help with Continental transmitters’ cooling, and the review of submittals for Tinang New Fire Alarm System. Also, (b) (6) has scheduled a trip to CNMI in late November to assess antenna damage from Typhoon Yutu.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018

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

On the 11th, the Station Manager departed post for Annual Leave in the States and attended the CON 216 Legal Considerations in Contracting – 1216 Course. He is expected to return on 22 November 2018.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of October was 99.87%. Overall transmission availability was 99.78%, which includes loss of station power and program feed from WDC. Transmitter GB-7 developed a major fault with its PSM computer system and has been removed from the current broadcast schedule until the fault has been resolved.

The OEM (ABB, now Ampegon) advised the station that the transmitter is no longer supported due to its age and parts obsolescence. The station is actively looking for other broadcasters that may still use this particular transmitter with hopes that known good printed circuit cards can be obtained for use as a reference for troubleshooting.

(b) (6) from the Kuwait Transmitting station assisted the technical staff with the assembly of the first Continental 419 transmitter. Although he was only onsite for a short time, his knowledge of the transmitter helped the staff tremendously.

Extensive preventative maintenance has begun on antennas B31 and B32. OCB director (b) (6) along with OCB staff members (b) (6) visited the site during the month. After a tour of the site, meetings were held with station management and staff.

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

We are coming to the end of summer and autumn is on its way. We can feel autumn is already here, with nights starting to draw in and the temperatures starting to drop rapidly. Daylight Saving Time was adjusted on October 28, 2018, with clocks turned back 1 hour.

(b) (6) & (b) (6) arrived from Djibouti on Oct 8th for the commissioning of the New Chiller and installation of New VSAT and technical support.

(b) (6) arrived from Sao Tome on Oct 12, 2018, for the successful upgrade of CUCM system.

Station operations were normal until the end of October when the Tinian & Saipan sites suffered from Typhoon YuTu. Both Lampertheim & Biblis took up some broadcast hours to cover.

The Station had exercised the first option year of Workforce contract to begin November 1st, and full year funding has been made available in October.

Safety Meeting was held on Oct 10th, and was conducted by our Safety Officer in charge, (b) (6).

Congratulations to (b) (6), who received the Spot Light Award.

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

Station operations for October at USAGM Kuwait were routine, and station availability was 99.86% with 6,008 scheduled broadcast hours.

The Fall Season has brought a well needed break from the intense summer heat, and the Station is once again able to perform long overdue exterior work. The Facilities section has started maintenance activities on antenna related issues that cropped up over the summer, and the TX section has started maintenance work on several Satellite dishes.

With the return of cool weather many Kuwaiti's have returned to the neighborhood, and the Station finds itself once again in the middle of tent city. We expect our normal share of desert truffle seekers and maybe a few falconers to visit the site during the winter months.

Post's Health Unit personnel visited the Station on the 9th and administered Flu vaccines to sixteen staff members.

A Technician from Future Fibre Technology reported to the Station on the 9th to repair the fiber fence security system. Although the technician was able to repair many of the defective splices and damaged areas in the fiber loop, he was unable to repair the main computer system. He departed on the 10th with instructions for us to return the unit to FFT HQ in the U.S. for repair.

Facilities Section:

During the month of October, the facilities rigger team carried on the annual preventive maintenance on Antenna A4

Rigger team conducted a monthly inspection and Quarterly preventive maintenance on Rotatable antenna A5.

Rigger team Finished assembling and erection of screen reflector for the new HF antenna.

The antenna rigging team start installing open wire transmission line.

Facility team performed a Monthly preventive maintenance on Warehouses and station Diesel tank.

The following FM Station O&M Agreements/Contracts were awarded:

- a. A multiyear O&M contract was awarded to Audio Video Transmission & Radio in Burkina Faso on October 23, 2018.
- b. Option Year#1 was awarded to Iraq Media Network in Iraq on October 25, 2018.
- c. Option Year#3 was awarded to Nianzou Kangou Vincent on October 21, 2018 for the FM O&M work in Ivory Coast.

Kuwait Transmitting Station continues to work with Office of Contracts in Washington, to ensure that we continue FM broadcasts in Morocco and Lebanon without any interruptions.

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

REKTS began October while still recovering from Typhoon Mangkhut. On October 15th, a tropical depression formed from a low-pressure area in the western Pacific Ocean and began its march toward the Northern Marianas Islands. This tropical depression rapidly strengthened to become Super Typhoon Yutu. On October 25th at 2 A.M., Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall on Tinian and the southern portion of Saipan as a Category 5 Super Typhoon with 180 mph sustained winds and gusts reaching 200 mph. Super Typhoon Yutu is the strongest storm of record to ever make landfall in the Northern Marianas Islands, and the second-strongest system to ever impact the United States and its unincorporated territories. Record setting wind speeds, combined with several hours of bombardment from debris, wreaked havoc on both sites. All antennas on both Saipan and Tinian were damaged and many were severely damaged. Transformers, slew box areas, diplexer feeds, and delay areas all have major damage. All counter weight anchors have either shifted, become unlevelled, lost dunnage, or were damaged beyond repair. One tower has suspect foundation cracking. Most of the security fencing was blown down. The transmitter buildings have damage to most doors, some exterior HVAC ducting, roof ridge caps, flashing, drip edges, gutters, and exhaust fans. Many exhaust fans or blowers were detached from the wall allowing water intrusion into the transmitter bay areas. On Tinian, transmitter cabinets 1-6 were inundated with water. Other areas flooded due to horizontal driving rain.

In short, vehicles were damaged, buildings were damaged, a microwave shelter was destroyed, 3 satellite dish were destroyed, perimeter fencing was destroyed, and most all the antennas were badly damaged. There is very little at either site to report as unscathed.

Recovery efforts started immediately following the storm. All fencing has been stood back up. Most of the debris has been removed from the antenna field. Temporary repairs have been made to roofing, doors, and flashing. Communications on Saipan have been restored and we are trying to come up with an interim solution for Tinian while awaiting restoration of basic services. Nearly 1300 utility poles are down on Saipan and nearly 800 poles are down on Tinian. Both sites are on emergency power. Recovery efforts will become the new normal for the foreseeable future.

After replacing the 152 Network cisco switches, Cisco IPSEC router, and installing Cisco wireless access points for the 152 network, Mr. Larry Chiu departed REKTS Saipan October 14th.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) traveled to the CNMI from October 16th thru the 19th, to perform routine oversight. He then traveled to Poro on October 22nd and 23rd, to inspect the site. (b) (6), Facilities Supervisor returned to post on October 21st, from a consultation and training visit in WDC and annual leave.

On the 10th, (b) (6) of US Embassy Contracts & Procurement (C&P) office arrived at the Station to meet with the new B&G Contractors for a post award and pre-performance conference meeting.

On the 11th, Concepcion Vice-Mayor (b) (6) and (b) (6) visited the station and met with the Station Manager.

Also, various universities arrived at the station for their educational tour: October 9th and 10th, a total of 95 students and 3 faculty members from De La Salle University, College of Information Technology and Engineering, Lipa City Batangas; October 16th, 10 students and 1 faculty member from STI College, San Fernando, Pampanga; and on October 18, 38 students, 2 faculty members and 2 tour guides from Lyceum of the Philippines University, Calamba Laguna.

Vacancy announcements ended October 18th for four vacancies: Computer Management Assistant, 2 Radio Technicians, Transmitter Technician Mechanical (Mechanical Foreman) and Storekeeper. Embassy HR will conduct English Placement Test (EPT) and will inform USAGM for the results in order to proceed to the next step. On October 23rd, LE newcomers (b) (6) and (b) (6), attended the Newcomers' mandatory briefings and courtesy call with the Ambassador at Embassy Manila.

Facilities Storekeeper, (b) (6), retired effective October 26th. (b) (6) will serve as acting storekeeper and will manage FMO warehouse until the station selects a replacement.

We've had an unfortunate incident with our Local Guard Force (LGF) assigned to the Poro site. Throughout August and September, they had witnessed property removal by station staff, and also noted scraps of copper and other miscellaneous items being claimed by the B&G Staff from our trash bin. So after the soft closure of the site and RIF of our four local employees on September 28th, they took it upon themselves to reclaim all the copper remaining in the antenna field! We are not simply talking grounding straps around the base of towers and surrounding the tuning huts. They retrieved all the seemingly abandoned copper from within the tuning huts, and literally pulled the copper radials from the ground! All of them! An investigation was performed by the station, before turning the matter over to the RSO's office. The matter is now being discussed with the LGF Contractor, Group 4, for resolution.

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

Operations at Sao Tome Transmitting Station were routine for the month. The Station's broadcast availability for the month of October was 99.97 %. Program outages totaled 0.75 hours with 14 off/ons. Program broadcast hours totaled 2,749.5. One Operational memo was implemented.

The Medium Wave tower project started and ended the month of October at the same point: all the tower sections are on the ground. During the month, however, up to 7 sections of the tower were erected. Errors in the dimensions of the tower legs, diagonal bracing, and flanges are many. The out-of-plumb situation was visible to the naked eye. As November began, a representative of the tower company, (TASS) arrived to investigate, but has yet to provide a report or decision on how to proceed. This has cost our own station riggers many weeks of lost time on our curtains as we had agreed to loan the contractor (CTB) our winch for the MW project, to grease insulator hardware, and to help guide the expensive Austin insulators into position. A basic tower with no attachments should have only needed use of a winch for two weeks, and so the loan would have had minimal effect to STTS. Sheldon Daitch came to STTS to monitor progress of the project. However, he will have to depart November 17th regardless of the status of the project, due to lack of FACT training.

October 7th, the Parliamentary elections were held in São Tomé and Príncipe. Municipal elections and elections to the regional council on Príncipe were held alongside them. The results were such that many people were upset, and others doubted the vote counting procedure. A district election Judge's vehicle was overturned and burned, due to suspicion of fraud. The Prime minister and some of the cabinet members left the country within the succeeding 2 weeks.

October 10th, there was a fault on antenna #02. The 24V transformer on RF switch #09 was replaced and some mechanical adjustments were made by Antenna Maintenance team.

October 11th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) departed Sao Tome to return to Germany after having completed the installation of the new Cisco Unified Communications Manager at T/EOS/S. The old CUCM server was forwarded to T/EOS/G via DHL on October 29th.

October 12th, SAO-5 suddenly shut down due to defective driver tube. 0.33 hours of Net B English were lost. Also, dry-air leakage on the 9" coaxial pipe of the 600KW MW was cured by replacing the coaxial clamp.

October 16th, NCC experienced switching problem due to router malfunction, which removed audio from AOR48. This led the station to lose 25 minutes of Net B1 English to Zimbabwe program.

October 15th, the PA tube of SAO-02 was replaced due to low emissions. The tube serial number 707575 lasted 4,836 anode hours.

October 17th, the coil of one of the Chiller compressors shorted and caused damage to its 250 Amps main circuit breaker located in the building distribution cabinet A301. New circuit breaker was installed.

October 23rd, a job opening for Radio Technician position was posted in public places and advertised on the National Radio. It was not advertised on the local TV due to frequent long lasting blackouts throughout the country. The current electrical power situation is so precarious on Sao Tome island that it has caused strong public discontent, which in late October resulted in numerous protests and barricades of the streets with burning tires, old cars etc.

October 28th, the new B18 Winter Broadcast Schedule was implemented without any major concerns.

Preventive maintenance was performed on tower #03 (scraping, removing rust and priming with secondary paint). Also, bolts, nuts and some legs braces up to second platform were replaced.

The Antenna Maintenance team continued to assist (b) (6) and CTB technicians on MW 600KW tower replacement project.

Although the Power Plant has been controlled by only one technician for more than two weeks due to sick leaves of other staff members, all the routine activities were successfully and safely accomplished.

The HVAC team reprogrammed swage tank clock, performed unscheduled maintenance on the Reverse Osmosis system by replacing water pump on the R/O #1 and the electric motor on R/O#3. An electrical problem was solved in the chiller by replacing circuit breaker on the main panel that feeds chiller. The HVAC technicians replaced the contactor in the CIP system. They also replaced compressor #1, solenoid valve and bypass pipe of the system 2 in the chiller.

The B&G team successfully and safely supported other sections to complete their daily scheduled tasks.

No Power outage occurred during the reported month.

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

Operations were normal for the month of October.

On October 17, 2018, The Public Relation Department of Thailand Director General, (b) (6) and the PRD team visited the Udon site. The purpose of their visit was to continue discussions regarding the 1st 10 year extension of the Udon station Country to Country Agreement.

During the month, the Station received 28 letters with reception reports from listeners.

QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty-one shipments for the month of November. Seven shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and five shipments were designated to Embassies including Lomé, Freetown, and Johannesburg. There were five total FedEx shipments and 1 import from Zurich going to Sao Tome. The “other” shipments consisted of picking up and shipping via FedEx personal items to retiree Henok Fente at his home address and Germany’s shipment of satellite equipment going to Freetown. Lastly, the Logistics team completed nine deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 11/27/18, we have five open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of November was 435 and a total of 170 items inventoried. The Team added 55 items to PIPS (2 were Capital Assets with a value of \$46,526.70) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$416,293.42. We also deleted 6 Items from PIPS (0 of the items were a Capital Assets) with a total acquisition value of \$17,546.99.

M&R: A draft FY19 3-yr M&R plan was submitted to management for review and approval. The plan was approved on November 15th and forwarded to the stations for review and comment. The first M&R funds transfer to the stations was requested on November 28th. This transfer provides funds for 9 of the 18 M&R projects approved for implementation. In Sao Tome, the manufacturer’s representative identified numerous errors in the tower that were not able to be repaired on site. After discussions between the contractor and tower manufacturer, the contractor submitted a proposal indicating that a new tower will be provided at no additional cost to us. In addition, they would like to abandon the material on site for our use since shipping back to South Africa is not feasible. The proposed schedule shows installation on July/August 2019. We are planning on accepting their proposal and process a contract modification. Other M&R activities this month included: continued review of submittals for Tinang New Fire Alarm System; submission of Antenna Maintenance and Repair ID/IQ procurement package to CON; and development of SOW and IGCE for Kuwait chillers’ replacement. Richard Cai arrived in CNMI on November 28th and will provide an antenna damage assessment as a result of Typhoon Yutu in mid-December.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR December 2018 and January 2019

BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION: The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December and January:

December 29th, Bot-2 was off air for thirty-two minutes due to a defective contactor in the IPA power supply.

On the 15th of January the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy Gaborone to meet with the Deputy Chief of Missions, (b) (6), and also attend the in-Country Team meeting.

On the 15th of January Bot-1, Bot-2, Bot-3 and Bot-4 lost two minutes each while Bot-A lost three minutes due to commercial power interruption.

Safety: There were no occupational safety concerns or mishaps to report for the month of January.

EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION: The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in December and January:

In December thanks to the kind help from the Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station, the GB-7 modulator problem was isolated to a single circuit board.

Work is under way to isolate and replace the defective component. The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of January was 99.94%.

The GB-1 area was busy with staff and contractors working tirelessly to complete the installation of the first 419F transmitter. The installation of the external balun with custom interface and the PSM safety fence were also completed during the month.

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

The Station received bad news that the former director of Radio & TV of Afghanistan at Jalalabad and currently the head of one of the private Radio and TV channel, was kidnapped on December 4th in the middle of Jalalabad city in broad day light by gunmen and his driver was killed on the spot in the city.

Mandatory Training for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) was held in Biblis for all USAGM staff, by RSO/CM - (b) (6) on December 7, 2018.

On Dec 14th, Senior Mission Germany RSO, (b) (6), and, CPP Security Coordinator Supervisor of Berlin, (b) (6) visited Lampertheim Station for routine inspection.

The staff continued providing technical support, in preparation for the new lease and services contracts renewal. Station prepared documents for excepted activities to ensure the continuity of operations at various locations, i.e. Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Djibouti and Cyprus.

During the government shutdown the satellite group used this time to upgrade equipment firmware and software on IT equipment in the satellite area. In particular, we managed to update the firmware on the IOR B-Pol 750W C-band HPA from ver. 1.05 to ver. 3.06. Despite that, the GUI provides additional parameter adjustment the software is still very inflexible. Power adjustment can still not entered as real data (Watt) however via increasing the attenuation within the IPA stage. This method is uncomfortable when operating the HPA from remote i.e. when adverse weather requires power adjustments. While we had talks with CPII in the Netherlands, we also discussed backup scenarios and IP control of backup hardware.

For the first time ever, all Lampertheim satellite uplink signal are only via metromux Eff. On January 14th, the last remaining four channelized audios had been shifted from encoder encoding to metromux to provide signal for Eutelsat 13° Hotbird via Lampertheim.

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

A farewell lunch was held on December 20th for two LES employees:

a) Supervisory Radio Technician, (b) (6) separated voluntarily with effect from December 22, 2018. (b) (6) worked with Kuwait Transmitting Station for 15 years and was hired from the Philippines Station in July 2003.

b) Supervisory Radio Technician, (b) (6) separated for age with effect from 4th January 2019. (b) (6) was hired from the Philippines Station in July 2003. He earned a Special Immigrant Visa and departed to be settled down in the U.S. (b) (6) worked with Kuwait Transmitting Station for 15 years. We wish them every success.

A USAGM Spotlight Award was also presented to (b) (6) on the same day.

On the 14th of January, Station's Safety Officer, (b) (6), arranged for the first of two bi-monthly Safety Committee meetings.

Due to high winds sand accumulated and bury the coaxial transmission line for KWT-A. Unable to issue a contract for removal of the sand, station staff volunteered to clear the coaxial line using shovels and the Bobcat. It was a labor-intensive assignment requiring strenuous physical effort, and I commend the crew for a job done well.

Assigned FSO's hosted an employee appreciation luncheon for LE Staff on the 24th. Charge' D Affaires Mr. (b) (6) also attended and expressed the Mission's appreciation for the dedication and professional spirit displayed during the shutdown.

Facilities Section:

In the month of December, Verminex contractor conducted a pest control at all building and surrounding areas.

A monthly preventive maintenance on the stations Henkel Emergency Generator, discovered that two batteries need to be replaced.

We conducted a monthly preventive maintenance on Warehouses, Diesel Tank, Delta Barriers, Sliding Gates, M.O.C. building, and lighting inside the buildings.

During the month of January, the facilities rigger team started annual preventive maintenance on Antenna A2.

This month security guards reported a lot of broken perimeter inner and outer fence spots made by campers, facility team repaired them and added barbed wire to stop Camels.

Riggers replaced one broken and one leaking water valves on the roof of the front gate building, and leaking water flushing system at the back-gate toilet.

Riggers repaired leaking hydraulic pipes and installed stoppers for the Bobcat loader.

Riggers finished installing equalizer plate spacers on the new HF antenna transmission line.

NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION: The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in December and January:

REKTS began December with (b) (6), PTS Deputy Manager, (b) (6), PTS Telecommunications Engineer, and Mr. Richard Cai, Civil Engineer, Network Support Branch (T/EOS/N) remaining onboard to assist in developing antenna repair projects, to restore station communication systems, and to formally assess antenna damage as part of the ongoing recovery efforts.

Commercial power has been restored to approximately 75% of Saipan. The island received a large shipment of much needed transformers on December 28th, so many of the new poles that have been up for a few weeks should become useful soon. Armatech received parts for rewinding the Saipan Station Generator on December 28th, and have scheduled the rewind for the first week of January. We are still hopeful power is restored at the Saipan Station sometime in January. Water has been restored to 90% of businesses and residents. On Tinian, commercial power has been restored to approximately 60% of the island while water has been restored to 100% of businesses and residents. Because of the delay in transformers being shipped in and residential housing remaining the priority, the Station will likely remain on generator for another 2 months.

Although some temporary emergency type repairs remain, recovery efforts have largely shifted from temporary repairs to a path for restoring mission capability. This path includes an intense salvage and reuse effort. Parts are being removed from the field, cleaned, and cataloged for reuse. Removal of antenna debris and minor field repairs continue on both Saipan and Tinian. (b) (6) have worked to organize repair priorities and began developing a Scope of Work based on abilities to rein in cost with successful salvage efforts, while also focusing on the desired broadcast recovery. (b) (6) led a successful effort in restoring

microwave communications between Saipan and Tinian, specifically restoring the 152 data network, Cisco VoIP phone system, 3 direct phone lines, and internet service. Mr. Cai completed damage assessments on 21 towers and 16 antenna systems. He also developed a detailed report in addition to providing a rough order of magnitude cost estimate.

Both Tinian and Saipan have been off the air since the passing of Super Typhoon Yutu on October 24, 2019. Though the Tinian site has been on generator power since October 26th, the station has yet to broadcast due to damaged antennas. The site is awaiting repair of the 13.8 kV transmission feeder line. In Saipan, commercial power was finally restored this month, on January 20th. Up until this time, the station has been supported by our 96kw Wacker/Neuson admin generator. The 800kw Caterpillar broadcast support generator is still offline awaiting motor repairs. Significant progress is being made repairing Saipan antenna 340M, with the successful rebuild and raising of 16 dipoles on January 28th.

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

As part of the ongoing civic action to help elderly population in the five surrounding barangays, the station distributed food during the holiday season. In support of the mission's program to maintain and enhance relationships with local officials the station distributed complimentary items to the local officials, Philippine Army and Philippine National Police officers.

In December, the station made selection for 3 Radio Technicians and 1 Storekeeper position.

On December 15th, station did a special broadcast for the Government of Japan from 0500 to 0812 UTC. The broadcast is original scheduled for CNMI, however due to typhoon Yutu, it was rescheduled to Tinang.

Station Manager (b) (6) arrived at Manila on January 5th. He traveled to CNMI on the 23rd through the 26th, to survey REKTS typhoon recovery status. He continued his trip to Washington DC on the 26th where he will fulfill duties as Acting Director, TSI Operations and Stations Division (T/EOS), in addition to his duties as Station Manager. (b) (6) was appointed Acting Director effective January 3, 2019.

Deputy Station Manager (b) (6) returned to post on the 3rd, from TDY in the CNMI. On January 29th, 36 students and 2 faculty coordinators from Palawan State University visited the station for an educational tour.

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

On December 13th, at 02:00 AM, a power plant control malfunction caused a station blackout. As a result, a total of 1.53 hours of Net B English and 0.53 hours of Net F2 KNKR were lost. Genset #3 shut down and locked out. Another generator was brought online, but it also shut down and locked out. Consecutively, all four generator locked out and caused station to lose power. The UPS held the MCR and all station's breakers for its regular battery run time. Since the blackout lasted longer than that time, the UPS shut down the MCR and all four main Breakers. A temporary battery was connected to supply one incoming breaker to bring UPS into the operation as way to start all equipment and consequently, the complete station.

Later on the same day, transmitter SAO-3 shut down itself and could not tune properly at 1710 hours due to a burned insulator in power matching circuit from RF driver stage to the Final Stage control grid. 1.33 hours of English to Zimbabwe and 0.17 hours of KNKR were lost.

December 25th, successive arcing in the output network section of SAO-2 prevented further broadcast. 0.80 hours of English to Zimbabwe programming were lost.

These outages are uncharacteristic of the near-perfect availability at STTS in the past, and solutions to the generator #3 issues are being actively explored. Until a problem is isolated, generator #3 is not being used exclusively in hours when the site is not fully manned.

The beginning of December was unusual for STTS and for the entire island of Sao Tome. The elections in November resulted in the incumbent government no longer being in the majority. There were protests downtown over the results, with one voting official's car being overturned & burned, and an overnight blockade of the road between STTS and downtown, with overturned cars and tires burning. The defeated Prime Minister and some other officials left the island under dubious circumstances, with rumors swirling as to the contents of their luggage. The island's power plants, already broken down and rationing power intermittently, worsened. There had been no power to the village of Neves for 10 days, when the citizens blockaded the roads. Since Neves contains the island's sole fuel depot, this was of concern. After one week of the blockade, all fuel stations were dry and power plant officials announced that all power would be extinguished due to lack of fuel.

Since an island blackout would leave STTS as the only functioning facility with electricity on the island, and a brightly lit compound, security of the fuel on site was of concern. A trade was proposed with the local Police department, whereby they provided STTS with three officers and a pickup truck with which to patrol the site for the weekend, in exchange for 100 gallons of fuel. This was a good exercise in cooperation with local authorities, in response to a mutual problem.

As it turned out, the mayors of the villages with the blockades (Neves and Guadalupe) eventually convinced the protestors to allow the fuel trucks to pass, and the island generating plants did not

go completely dark. By the end of the weekend all fuel stations had fuel again, and power delivery was restored to “normal”.

There was an informal meeting with the Sao Tome Minister of Infrastructure on Dec 20th. He requested that we connect the STTS power plant to the island grid so that everybody could have a Merry Christmas. After informing him that there was no physical provisions for accomplishing what he had asked, the island’s power plant issues were discussed, and it was agreed that their technicians would find it of value to visit our site during generator rebuilds and other major maintenance activities for training. In this manner, it is hoped that STTS can continue to offer some help for the island’s power issues, on a limited yet practical basis.

The HVAC removed a burnt electric motor on the R/O #1, conducted corrosion control, painting and maintenance on a high power transformer. HVAC replaced a service valve in the B&G bathroom, replaced a bird spray away machine in the swimming pool and replaced some electrical wires in HAU2 (at TX hall A/C) from the junction box to the motor.

Antenna Maintenance team replaced bad power supply and fuse due to Link Fail on antenna #07, completed the replacement of vertical wire clamps, bolts and nuts and removed the rigging system (spider stage) on antenna #11 screen side, continued working on air leakage on 9” coaxial pipe MW 600KW (replaced the coaxial clamp and ring). The team is carrying on with preventive maintenance on tower #03 (scraping, removing rust and priming with secondary paint). They have already reached the third platform.

January 3rd, at 22:26, Genset #3 was online, then unexpectedly shut down and caused station blackout. This sudden loss of power caused damage to transmitters. Specifically the Flash card of SAO-4 and control card of SAO-A.

January 4th, a defective TSM printed board prevented SAO-A from broadcast. Station lost 0.93 hours of Net B English programming.

January 8th, transmitter SAO-3 suddenly dropped to FILAMENT and could not be returned to air at 1846 hour due to lack of excitation current. Troubleshooting was performed and a burned coil support was found in the RF chain. 14 minutes of English to Zimbabwe and 30 minutes of Kinyarwanda/Kirundi were lost.

January 18th, SAO-4 motor switch MP4 failed and the transmitter would not coarse tune for 2030 hour broadcast. Troubleshooting was conducted while the faulty transmitter was substituted by SAO-2. The bevel gear that connects the motor to the matching coil L251, was found broken. No program was lost.

January 23rd, during the PM on SAO-01 technicians replaced a bad driver tube. No Operational Memos were implemented during the month.

All Facilities Plant sections have successfully completed their scheduled tasks and no accidents were reported. Some unscheduled tasks arose as follows:

The Antenna Maintenance team replaced six corroded wires including ½ shackles, big grip dead ends on the transmission line for antenna #09 Tropical Band; they also replaced four corroded Hoffman boxes on towers #02, 06, 07 and 11, for pedestal lights. The job was completed by protecting the box with white grease and replacing burned lamps and photocells. The Antenna Maintenance team conducted a preventive maintenance on tower #03 (scraping, removing rust and priming with secondary paint). They have already reached the third platform.

The Power Plant technicians safely conducted valve lash on the generators #1 and #3, worked on the generator #2 and found out that the camshaft lobe for the intake valve of cylinder 16 was horribly worn down. The camshaft and ancillary components were emergency ordered. The generator is still available on an emergency basis.

The power Plant and Transmitter workers who were called in afterhours performed admirably during the blackout experienced January 3rd. Function was restored with the minimum of lost time. These men should be especially recognized since there is no guarantee they will be paid for their overtime, due to the US Government closure.

All employees of Sao Tome Transmitting Station should be commended for performing the routine tasks of the site, serving without pay for more than a month.

THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION: The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December and January:

Operations were normal for the month of December.

During the month, the Station received 14 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

Operations were normal for the month of January.

During the month, the Station received 16 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty nine shipments for the month of January. Nineteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and four shipments were designated to Embassies including Niamey, Kabul, and Djibouti. There were twenty three total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of picking up and FedEx personal items to retirees (b) (6), and (b) (6) at their home addresses, Germany’s shipment of Satellite equipment going to Lomé, and a repaired HPA from Amsterdam going back to Kuwait. Lastly, the Logistics Team completed five deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from USAGM to JCM. As of 01/30/19, we have eleven open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of thirty six shipments for the month of February. Seven shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and three shipments were designated to Embassies including Nairobi, Kabul, and Brazzaville. There were eight total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of picking up and shipping out personal items to three VOA retirees at their home addresses, shipping out a PWA backplane to Texagroup Inc in Texas which will eventually be passed along to Radio Sawa in Libya, and shipping two D9854i receivers to Intelsat General Communications in McLean, VA for shipment to Singapore for use on an upcoming satellite transmission service. Lastly, The Logistics Team completed ten deliveries from JCM to USAGM and three pickups from USAGM to JCM. As of 02/26/19, we have five open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of January was 1438 and a total of 710 items inventoried. The Team added 45 items and 1 capital asset item to PIPS with a total Acquisition Cost of \$233,751.42. We also deleted 15 non-capital asset items from PIPS with a total acquisition value of \$42,810.44.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of February was 3263 and a total of 2533 items inventoried. The Team added 113 items to PIPS with a total Acquisition Cost of \$717,568.50. We also deleted 85 Items from PIPS (11 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$323,303.80) with a total acquisition value of \$800,706.53.

M&R: The program has received 50% of the FY19 allotment to date. WDC has transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund 10 programmed projects. The remaining projects will be funded once the allotment gets replenished. Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System project is ongoing, with the DB contractor submitting construction submittals for review and approval. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires project is ongoing, with (b) (6) submitting an assessment report of the antenna damage before the shutdown. The contractor visited the site in February to assess the existing antenna conditions. Details of new antenna counterweight wire ropes for five antennas will be submitted in March for review and approval. The new Sao Tome MW tower will be fabricated in March. (b) (6) and a local consulting engineer will travel in March to meet the contractor, to discuss and inspect the tower fabrication.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019

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

The Station's Operations were routine during the month of February. To protect the medium wave coaxial transmission line from elephant damage, a local construction company was hired to clear excess bush and foliage. So far the elephants have stayed away from the station due to rainfall. However, a dry period is upon us again and there have been sporadic sightings of the animals.

The 2015 Jeep that the station owns experienced an engine failure as the driver was returning from Francistown. The dealership pin pointed the engine failure to an internal part. The vehicle has approximately 60,000 miles on the odometer and the warranty has just ran out. Currently Jeep South Africa is looking at a "goodwill repair" by assisting the station with the cost.

Safety: There were no occupational safety concerns or mishaps to report for the month of January.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of February was 99.99%. Overall transmission availability was 99.97% which includes loss of program feed from WDC.

Work continued on finalizing the installation of GB-1. On February 28th, the transmitter breathed its first RF power into the test load. Confirmation of meter readings against known standards are under way.

Visitors for the month included Acting Director, Operations & Stations Division, William Martin, (b) (6) with the Wheatstone Corp. and (b) (6) with station KSDS in San Diego. (b) (6)

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

Germany's operations in February has been normal. The Station had a visit from the Minister Counselor for Management, (b) (6), from the U.S. Mission Berlin and the HR Officer – U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, Gretchen Cureton, on February 7, 2019.

On February 14th, RSO staff, (b) (6) visited the station to inspect the location for the Open Net installation and our security system.

Due to ongoing issues in regards to satellite realignment and the revised frequency plans station calculated BW and new IF frequencies to verify that equipment specification will match the calculated symbol/data rates as also the propose BW settings. While the data was available, we programed different QSPK modulators to determine the most feasible unit. Of course, the ADTEC EN-31 provides the most features about frequency and data rate flexibility since the modulator by the EN-31 is able to handle narrow audio carriers. I.E the Cisco 9390 only provides 250Mbs steps.

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

The Stations operations for February were executed as per routine and station availability was 99.98%, with 5,447.5 scheduled broadcast hours.

Station welcomed a new Radio Technician to the staff. (b) (6) arrived from the Philippines on the 24th of February and began in-processing. Angeline was formerly employed by USAGM Philippines station.

Station experienced a major breakdown of the Fiber Optic cable outside of the USAGM's compound, adversely affecting the station activities on the 24th of February. The Stations computers could not access the FAXFAX system or connect to USAGM's intranet. Several of the Station's landlines stopped functioning. In spite of frequent appeals to the Ministry of Communication, the communication lines remained out of service at month's end.

The Station closed the month with a small sendoff gathering on the 28th of February, to honor two staff members with a plaque:

- a) Antenna Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6) separated voluntarily on the 28th of February, 2019. Mohsine, completed eight years of service at USAGM, Kuwait. Prior to this, he worked at the Morocco station.
- b) Chauffeur/Expeditor, (b) (6) and (b) (6) last day of work was the 28th of February, 2019. (b) (6) worked at the Kuwait Station for 27 years. He put in a total of 41 years of service in the U.S. Government, Kuwait as a contracted staff and USAGM employee.

Visitors:

On the 5th of February the Deputy Station Manager had a meeting with Kaaval Security Systems & Equipment's Company, who visited the site and investigated repair options for the Station's defective Delta Barriers.

On the 12th of February two Americans from the Political section toured the station.

Facilities Section:

During the month of February rigging crews completed the annual maintenance of Antenna A2. BALUN unit of New SW antenna installed on locally fabricated H-Iron platform and installed earth rod for transmission line. Refurbished anchor bolts of the transmission line support poles. Facilities staff contributed to station general maintenance work of perimeter fence, and setup of new conference room with new Chairs and tables. Facilities staff assisted Transmitter technicians to replace external heat exchanger of the KWT-2. Antenna riggers lowered unusable c-band uplink satellite antenna and prepared for storage. Facilities assisted station warehouse clearing process. Sorted disposed items for auction and crushed sensitive items like hard drives, radio equipment's etc.

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

Tinian:

The repairs to Antenna 280H are progressing well. Expected operation status will be mid-March. The feed-line, slew-box and balun have been repaired. Testing of the antenna will commence once the reflector has been repaired. Commercial power to the site will be delayed at least a month due to unavailability of parts. The site is still running on back-up generators.

POP testing on the rebuilt transmitters will be upcoming and completed before on-date.

Saipan:

The Hawthorne 800 KW Station Generator was tested under load on the 15th of February. The 340M antenna was restored back to normal operation and broadcasts commenced at 1500 UTC on 21st of February. 9 MHz Diplexer feedline repairs completed. Tested OK with Site Antenna Analyzers.

Saipan operations had 99.92% reliability during this month with 90.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.07 hour of program outage and one (1) off/on event. One (1) commercial power outage/fluctuation encountered this month with 0.03 hour loss time.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) arrived post Manila February 23rd, from TDY in CNMI and Headquarters, Washington DC.

On February 14th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) had a meeting with Aboitiz Energy to discuss renewal of the Retail Electricity Supply Agreement. Both parties agreed to pursue a 2-year extension of the current agreement.

Various Universities visited the station for an educational tour. On the 20th, 29 students and 2 faculty members from Far Eastern University Manila; and on the 26th, 43 students and 1 faculty member from New Era University, Quezon City. The new Concepcion PNP Chief Inspector (b) (6) with PO1 (b) (6), also paid a courtesy visit on the 26th.

(b) (6) was selected for a Machinist position. Currently completing medical and security clearance.

A change in pay schedule starts in pay period 02 wherein Locally Employed Staffs will receive salary payments a day or two earlier than the regular bi-weekly pay date. This month also saw the submission of new LES Annual Work Plans to Embassy HR as necessitated by the implementation of the new Merit Based Compensation system.

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

STTS broadcast operations were outstanding in February. Broadcast availability for the month was 100.00%. Transmitter Plant had a total of 2,555 program broadcast hours, with no program outages and just 4 off/ons.

Station received a new vacuum tube CQK50-2 from Thales on February 6th. The tube was placed into operation for 200 filament hours in SAO-4 for burn-in purposes.

No Operational Memos were implemented during the month.

The contractor team from Electrofrío Company continues with their work on the false ceiling in the Transmitter Plant, and the installation of the split A/C units.

During the month of February 2019, all Facilities Plant sections successfully completed their scheduled tasks, and no accidents were reported. Some unscheduled tasks came up as follows:

Antenna Maintenance team replaced one maintenance cable on antenna 07 on the screen side. The cable is part of the Rigging system (spider stage). In meantime, they have replaced five vertical corroded wires on the same antenna and so far, 87 wires were replaced. The task continues with horizontal ones; replaced burned obstruction lamps 116w and 500W on towers #08 and 09; continues preventive maintenance on tower #03 (scraping, removing rust and priming with secondary paint). They have already reached the third platform.

The Power Plant team successfully conducted a deep inspection on the camshaft on all the generators.

The HVAC team installed a dumper on the exhaust fan in the Carpenter shop; supported TX technicians soldering some copper pipes; rebuilt the B&G shower system by using PPR pipes and fittings and mixing taps; detected and fixed water leak on the pipe system that supplies portable water to Facilities office, warehouse Morganti building and car washing station.

No Power Outage occurred during this period.

February 13th was the response date for the Building and Grounds Maintenance Sao Tome solicitation. We have been informed afterwards that six proposals have been received by that date.

On February 22nd, an award meeting was called by (b) (6) of the Office of Security Cooperation, US Embassy Libreville, Gabon. HR Assistant/Cashier (b) (6) received an Eagle award for her work on a multitude of tasks over many years in support of the Embassy's missions on Sao Tome. Economic and Commercial Assistant (b) (6) received a Mission Honor Award for exceptional performance of duty in regards to economic and commercial activity and public affairs.

On February 23rd, (b) (6) was presented with a TSI Spotlight Award for her exemplary service to the US Agency for Global Media.

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

Operations were normal for the month of February.

On February 12th, the Nonghan Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) Management, Engineers and staff visited Udorn site.

During the month, the Station received 31 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of forty three shipments for the month of March. Fifteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and ten shipments were designated to Embassies including Accra, Addis Ababa, Freetown and Brazzaville. There were six total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of shipping a PWA MOV circuit board to Texagroup in Texas for forwarding to the FM station in Libya. Lastly, the logistics team completed nine deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 03/27/19, we have eight open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of March was 3903 and a total of 914 items inventoried. The Team added 89 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$302,256.52. We also deleted 370 Items from PIPS (17 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$674,147.50) with a total acquisition value of \$1,353,889.64.

M&R: The program has received 100% of the FY19 allotment to date. WDC transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund 13 programmed projects. Remaining projects include Cyprus MW Antenna Towers Work and couple of projects for Greenville that could be deferred to fund the urgent need for replacement of incoming feeders. Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System project is ongoing, with the DB contractor on site performing survey and marking equipment installation locations. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires project is ongoing, R. Cai reviewed and approved details of new antenna counterweight wire ropes for five

antennas. Fabrication for the new Sao Tome MW tower will start soon. (b) (6) and a local consulting engineer traveled to Johannesburg to visit the factory and met with the contractor to discuss and inspect the tower fabrication. The meeting went well; however, the tower fabrication will take about 20 weeks, longer than expected. (b) (6) visited Greenville Transmitting Station in late March to assess condition of incoming feeders and discuss M&R projects.

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

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

On the 5th of March the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy in Gaborone to meet with the new Chief of Mission, Ambassador (b) (6), and also to attend the in-Country Team meeting.

On the 8th of March USAGM Botswana station staff welcomed Ambassador (b) (6) and his delegation which included USAID Country Director (b) (6), Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché Colonel (b) (5), and Public Affairs Officer (b) (6). The Ambassador toured the Station and later met with all of the USAGM Botswana staff to introduce himself and encouraged everyone to continue the important work being done here each day.

On the 19th the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy Gaborone to meet with Ambassador Craig Cloud for a scheduled one-on-one meeting.

(b) (6) arrived at post on the 15th. On the 21st the Regional Station Manager and (b) (6) travelled to Johannesburg South Africa to meet with CTB and TASS Engineering. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a quality assurance and manufacturing process for the Sao Tome MW tower build. On the 26th (b) (5) departed for Washington D.C.

Safety: There were no occupational safety concerns or mishaps to report for the month of March.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of March was 99.92%. Overall transmission availability was 99.92%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC.

Operations for the month of March were normal.

GB-1 began program test during the month including real-time, off-air reception reports from one of our colleagues in Miami. Different modulation modes of the transmitter were checked during this time and no difference was observed at the receiving end. Quality was excellent.

Work is progressing well on the installation of GB-2 and GB-3.

Visitors for the month included (b) (5), Office of Cuba Broadcasting and (b) (6), T/EOS.

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

The Merit Base Compensation (MBC) evaluation were due at end of March for all LES. The MBC system is very time consuming and difficult to use as it requires the Department of States Intranet (OpenNet).

The containerized FM station (TX in a box) to replace the one destroyed by the Taliban in Ghazni Afghanistan was completed and shipped to the Afghanistan. The site in Ghazni has been prepped for arrival of container and generators. The container is in Uzbekistan, on the border of Afghanistan. The FM station is expected to be on air by mid to late May.

The 5-year-extension of FM broadcast services (Annex III) in Djibouti was completed and signed by both parties. This agreement allows the continued FM broadcasts from Artta and Djibouti City.

A new Broadcast Lease Agreement for Tajikistan was signed and implemented in time to extend SW and MW broadcast services for a potential of five years. This agreement originally expired in April of 2018, but was extended unilaterally six months, had a three-month bridge contract, and then several months of Purchase Orders in order for the five-year agreement to be finalized.

On March 28th, Mr. (b) (6) visited the station and discussed future antennas inspections. Then Mr. Cai attended a meeting with Ampegon to discuss their use as a potential source for inspection and repair of Lampertheim and Biblis antennas. The station is performing market research concerning antenna inspection.

On March 29th, (b) (6) visited the station and met with manager and key FSN techs. Topics of discussion were FM monitoring and station support of FM subsidiary sites in Africa. This was a very productive visit.

After 24 and half years of dedicated service, FSN (b) (6) retired on March 31st, 2019. The station staff wishes (b) (6) a great retirement.

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

Station operations for March were executed as per routine and station availability was 99.98%, with 6,067.5 scheduled broadcast hours.

The Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6) departed to the U.S. on the 8th of March and returned to post on the 1st of April. (b) (6) attended two training courses in Washington DC, Contracting Officer's Representative and Simplified Acquisition Procedures and had a short annual leave following the two courses.

On the 12th of March a small team from the Consular Section toured the Station.

On the 19th March we had visitors from Washington DC. Mr. (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee visited the station.

On the 28th of March the station held a gathering to bid farewell to the Station's departing Resident Engineer, (b) (6). (b) (6) spent more than three years with the Kuwait Transmitting Station. We wish him every success in his future assignments.

Facilities Section:

During the month of March the rigging crew completed annual maintenance of Antenna A3 and monthly maintenance for the Rotatable A5 Antenna.

During the month of February and March we performed a total warehouse and container clean up, lining up all un-needed items for auctions. On March 14th a Sealed Bid Sale was held at the station. The proceeds of the sale amounted to \$ 21,765.68

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

REKTS:

REKTS ushered in March while broadcasting Radio Free Asia (RFA) from antenna 340M. Additionally, antenna 280H repairs were completed and began broadcasting RFA on March 22nd. Agency priority of repairs were quickly re-shuffled and work has begun on 313H and 313L. While restoration efforts continue, antenna 270M is about 50% complete.

With the Station now broadcasting on both Saipan and Tinian, shift rotations have returned to normal. With that being said, the staff is now standing watch and are no longer available for most recovery efforts. Although this is minor, it will impact recovery time.

Commercial power has been restored to 95% on Saipan with water now available to all residents. The Station is experiencing daily outages due to ongoing scheduled repairs. Commercial power has been restored to 95% on Tinian with water available to all residents. The station feeder is about 90% complete. All utility poles have been replaced with concrete poles. All cross members have been installed and most of the feed wire is in place. The insulators, transition connections, and meter installation make up most of the work that remains. The Utility to the station is expected to be restored within the next 30 days.

(b) (6) completed Construction Contract training in Denver, Colorado and returned to the Station on March 10. With parts in tow, (b) (6) arrived onboard March 14th and departed on March 16th bound for Washington DC.

Tinian:

After repairs on 280H had been completed, Tinian Site was back on airwaves effective March 22nd, in time for broadcast season change. Tinian operations had 97.15% reliability during this month with 61.50 hours of scheduled broadcast, 1.75 hours of program outages and 7 off/on events. Station is still running on back-up generators. Transmitter related problems attributed to 0.08 hour of outage, 0.07 hour back-up generator related issue and 1.60 hours scheduling/manning related issue.

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.85% reliability during this month with 378.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.57 hours of program outage and three (3) off/on event. Twelve (12) commercial power outages/fluctuation encountered this month with 0.32 hour loss time.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to the Tinian Station on the 13th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th, and 28th for recovery efforts, O&M Contract surveillance, and other administrative duties. (b) (6) arrived onboard for a site visit in Saipan on the 14th, visited Tinian on the 15th, and departed for Washington on the 16th.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) departed post Manila on March 13th, for TDY travel to the CNMI and on the 16th continued on to Headquarters, Washington DC.

Area Manager, (b) (6) from the State OBO/OPS/AM/EAP office paid a visit to the station on the 8th. Embassy ARSO (b) (6) arrived in the station on the 12th to conduct local guard force inspection. Various Universities visited the station for an educational tour. On the 5th, 40 students and 1 faculty member from Far Eastern University, Manila; on the 26th, 47 students, and 1 Faculty member from Laguna State Polytechnic University; and on the 27th, 36 students, and 2 Faculty members from the University of Batangas.

USAGM Day Care Centers school year 2018-2019 held their moving-up (graduation) ceremonies through-out the month of March. A total of 200 students (40 students in each barangay) received their graduation certificates and achievement awards, in the presence of USAGM-Philippines officials. Day care alumni's keynote speaker and Barangay Officials expressed their deepest gratitude to the Agency for the continued support in the program.

Embassy RSO thru FSI conducted Crisis Management Training from the 27th through the 29th, attended by Deputy Manager (b) (6) and Supervisor Safety and Security Officer (b) (6)

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

Operations at the Sao Tome Transmitting Station were routine this month. The Station's broadcast availability was 99.99%. Program outages totaled 0.26 hours with 10 off/ons. Program broadcast hours totaled 2821.5.

A total of three operational memos were implemented during the month. Operational Memo B18-047 was implemented on March 30th, Operational Memo B18-054 for BBC programming on March 31st, and Operational Memo A19-006 was implemented at the start of the A19 summer broadcast schedule.

No power outages, accidents or injuries occurred during the month of March. All routine tasks and scheduled maintenance were accomplished successfully.

The following unscheduled tasks were accomplished by the Facilities Plant staff:

On March 26th, antenna #04 failed to connect to its +2+2 configuration. Corrective maintenance was performed. A defective relay 24VDC reversing contact and 30 amp blown fuse were replaced with spares which put the antenna back on line.

Antenna technicians continued the replacement of horizontal wires on antenna #07 (screen side). Of the existing eighty-seven wires twenty have been replaced so far. During preventive maintenance and painting on Tower #03, the technicians found and replaced some burnt obstruction lights (116W and 500W).

Despite the team being currently reduced to two, Power Plant technicians. They successfully replaced the camshaft on Generator #2 at the beginning of the month.

In conjunction with the HVAC team the Power Plant techs installed one refurbished transformer at the old warehouse and replaced chains on the mooring buoys at the Marine Terminal.

HVAC technicians replaced a submersible well pump that feed the reverse osmosis system and the motor pump coupling on the RO#2. In addition, they installed a 100A load center to a new high-power step-down transformer at the old station. A capacitor in the recirculation electric motor pump for the swimming pool was replaced as well.

The B&G team worked to support the station on the routine maintenance accomplishing their scheduled and unscheduled tasks.

The Station's convened a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) to evaluate bids for the B&G services which solicitation closed in February. Six proposals were received by CON and sent to the station for evaluation. After extensive work on March 7th & 8th, the TEP proposed LA Maintenance for award, based on five recommended award factors. The results were submitted

to CON and station awaits award within the month of April. Meanwhile, the station intends to continue issuing bridge purchase orders until the new contract is awarded.

The Admin Unit started preparations for a station Open House scheduled for April 19th. Contacts have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Embassy for scheduling and protocol coordination. In addition, procurement for services related to the event have been done.

The Deputy Station Manager departed post on Home Leave on March 9, 2019 and is expected to return on April 18th.

No Safety issues to report this

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

Operations were normal for the month of March.

HR Embassy Bangkok conducted MBC presentation on March 7th-8th, 2019 for all staff at Udon site.

Quarterly Safety Meeting was held on March 18, 2019

On March 25th-29th, 2019, (b) (6) and (b) (6), TX Radio technicians traveled to Hat Yai, Songkhla and Pattani province to perform corrective maintenance on TVRO system at Affiliate Stations for Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus and Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai.

During the month, the Station received 33 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of forty nine shipments for the month of April. Thirteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and nine shipments were designated to Embassies including Accra, Mongolia, Bangui and Ouagadougou. There were eight total FedEx shipments and one import from Germany. Lastly, the logistics team completed fifteen deliveries from JCM to IBB and three pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 04/25/19, we have four open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of April was 2538 and a total of 1340 items inventoried. The Team added 63 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$1,046,548.89. We also deleted 91 Items from PIPS (3 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$187,178.94) with a total acquisition value of \$726,422.45.

M&R: The program has received 100% of the FY19 allotment to date. WDC transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund 13 programmed projects. A couple of projects for Greenville have been deferred to fund the urgent need for replacement of incoming feeders. Cyprus MW Antenna Towers Work is still pending implementation depending on results from lease termination negotiations. **Ongoing M&R projects:** Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System project is ongoing, with the DB contractor on site installing rough-ins. Greenville Chillers Project – SBA accepted offer to use 8(a) contractor, Legacy Construction. A site visit has been scheduled for May 8th. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires project is ongoing, R. Cai approved details of new antenna counterweight wire ropes for five antennas and materials have been ordered. Fabrication for the new Sao Tome MW tower has started. **M&R Contracting Actions:** CON modified Tinang's Fire Alarm contract to include the remainder of the buildings and provide a new FA system for the entire station.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL

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

Station had a 99.47% availability for the month.

On the 3rd of April the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy Gaborone to attend Country Team meeting.

On the 10th the Regional Station Manager travelled to Sao Tome transmitting station for site visit and attend the station's Representational Function. The Regional Station Manager arrived back on post on the 23rd.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of April was 99.75%. Overall transmission availability was 99.61%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC and loss of mains power to the station due to sync loss of the auxiliary generator while in the peak shaving mode.

GB-1 continues to substitute for a normally scheduled transmitter so that its operation and stability can be evaluated.

Additional Radio Marti programming was added to the station broadcast schedule. Radio Marti is now broadcasting three continuous frequencies to Cuba twenty-four hours per day. In addition, an additional frequency was added to broadcast the audio portion of TV Marti each week for five hours per day.

Work is progressing well on the installation of GB-2 and GB-3. Testing of the water and tuning motor systems of GB-2 began during the month with corrections made as needed.

Members of the North Carolina Society of Broadcast Engineers were given a tour of the site during the month.

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

The Station Admin staff traveled to the Embassy in Berlin for meetings with FMO and FMC staff to discuss various financial issues.

On April 9th -11th, (b) (6) travelled to Djibouti for technical support, meeting with RTD and for GFE annual inventory.

The Station has started plans for FM transmitter maintenance and operation training for technicians in the network and USAGM's foreign governmental partners. The training is planned to be held in Thailand due to the difficulty for foreign technicians like Afghans and Djiboutian to receive the Germany entry visa. There are less complication/restrictions for Thailand.

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

Station operations for April were executed as per routine, and station availability was 99.90%, with 5,876.5 scheduled broadcast hours.

On the 1st Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6) arrived from Washington DC after three weeks.

Station Administrative Assistant, (b) (6) departed to Washington DC on the 12th for training in SAP and returned on the 28th.

On the 15th, the H.R. Officer, (b) (6), and the H.R Specialist, (b) (6) visited the station.

Tutis International was contracted to conduct CPR/AED training for all staff. They held two sessions, one on the 17th and the second on the 23rd. Fifteen LES staff attended the training.

Al Aqsa General Trading Company completed the refurbishment of four offices which has given the Administration section a fresh look.

Station welcomed the Administrative Management Specialist, (b) (6) who came on board on the 28th.

On the 29th, the Station Manager conducted various security drill. The SelecTone system proved fully operational.

Facilities Section:

During the month of April rigging crew completed annual maintenance of Antenna A3 and monthly maintenance for the Rotatable A5 Antenna.

During the month of March and April, we performed total warehouse and containers clean up, lining up all un-needed items for auctions. On 14th April a Sealed Bid Sale was held at the station. The proceeds of the sale amounted to \$ 21,765.68

FM Station Updates for the Month of April 2019:

In the Following Months, re-negotiation of FM O&M Agreements/Contracts is to be determined:

- a. Sierra Leone
- b. Lebanon
- c. Ivory Coast
- d. Kenya
- e. Mauritania
- f. Dakar ,Senegal
- g. Hargeisa, Somaliland

Kuwait Transmitting Station will continue to work with Office of Contracts in Washington DC, to ensure that we continue broadcasting without any interruptions in the North Africa and Middle East regions.

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

REKTS:

The Northern Marianas Islands are experiencing drought like conditions as rainfall has diminished over the Commonwealth since January. Saipan and Tinian has had less than one inch of cumulative rainfall for the month of April. This has spawned many brush fires throughout the islands where dry trees and brush blown over from Super Typhoon Yutu is overly abundant. A large brush fire pushed by predominate winds approached Tinian Station on April 29th. RRC Staff and Firefighters battled the fire late into the night and was aided by a brief but much needed rain shower that extinguished what remained in the early hours of April 30th.

After 6 months, commercial power was restored to Tinian Station on April 29th. All utility equipment between the Station and the Power Plant aside from the underground cable has been replaced with new. The new utility feeding the station is supported by all new concrete poles that offer superior resiliency to typhoons when compared to typical creosol poles.

Tinian and Saipan stations continue to use salvaged material to restore antennas, re-establish broadcast, and meet mission. Antenna 270M on Saipan is up and only minor repairs to ground support systems are needed prior to testing for broadcast. Antenna 313H on Tinian is 100% complete. Testing began on April 30th. We expect to request broadcast very early in May.

(b) (6) arrived onboard REKTS on April 28th. He will be supporting the station in the restoration of the SCADA system, installation of ethernet switches, intersite microwave repairs, installation of a new satellite dish for Saipan, re-orient Saipan and Tinian existing satellite dish to

Intelsat 19, restoring Tinian antenna field automation systems, and repairing the outdoor fiber optic connection on Tinian.

(b) (6) arrived onboard April 30th for a site visit on behalf of Station Manager.

Tinian:

The site is back on commercial power on 29th April, six (6) months after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the whole island of Tinian. Tinian operations had 99.40% reliability during this month with 315.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 1.89 hours of program outage and 24 off/on events. One (1) commercial power outage encountered this month with 0.07 hour loss time. Transmitter related problem attributed to 0.02 hour of outage and 1.80 hours due to antenna arcing and antenna control/communication related issues. On 29th April a wild fire threatened the site's antenna field and RRC personnel were able to successfully keep the fires from approaching the towers and anchors. RRC personnel remained on site to ensure the fires did not approach any building or compound equipment

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.96% reliability during this month with 522.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.23 hour of program outage and 10 off/on events. Eleven (11) commercial power outages/fluctuation encountered this month with no loss time.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station April 2nd, 4th, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 25th for recovery efforts, O&M Contract surveillance, and other administrative duties.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) arrived post Manila April 17th, from TDY in CNMI and Headquarters, Washington DC.

Messrs. (b) (6) Supervisory Telecom Engineer and Deputy Manager, (b) (6) departed on the 27th and 29th for a TDY in CNMI. Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6) arrived on April 29th, from Advanced Simplified Acquisition Procedures and CON 244, Construction Contracting training and consultation in Washington DC.

There were various visitors and universities visits throughout the month. On the 2nd, 47 students and 2 faculty members from Adamson University, Manila; on the 11th, 18 students and 2 faculty members from Central Philippines University, Iloilo; and on the 16th, 15 students and 1 Faculty members from AMA Computer College Tarlac. Two Aboitiz Power personnel visited the site to conduct thermal scanning of station's electrical system on the 15th. (b) (6) conducted LGF annual security training on the 24th.

On the 22nd at 5:11pm, the station experienced a strong earthquake (Intensity 5 on the Richter scale). No damage noted from the ocular inspection performed in and outside the building.

PTS hosted this year's Annual High Frequency Broadcasting Committee (HFBC) Meeting on April 26th, at Tinang Station. The event was attended by the agency heads, radio technicians and engineers from NTC, PBS and FEBC. USAGM Radio Technicians toured the guest at MCR, Transmitter hall and SIS building.

Selected for Machinist position (b) (6) will report to the Station on May 15th. Vacancy announcement for Safety and Security Technician, GS-7 has been posted to the Manila Embassy ERA.

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

The STTS broadcast operations were routine in April. Transmitter availability was 99.95%. Transmitter plant had a total of 2,724 program broadcast hours with 1.40 hours of program outage and only 7 off/ons. Two Operational Memos were received and implemented.

On April 1st, at 0400 hours, SAO-2 was unable to tune up and lost 1 hour of KNKR program. A lack of 24 Volts at antenna #2 prevented it from connecting. At 1630 the same day SAO-2 lost 0.17 hour of English to Sudan due to a technical problem at NCC.

On April 8th, a power outage at the studio removed program from AOR42 causing 10 minutes loss of Net F2 KNKR on SAO-1 and SAO-2 respectively.

On April 23rd, 44 minutes of Deutsche Welle program were lost. During the month of April 2019, there were no power outages. No accidents or minor injuries were reported. All routine tasks and scheduled maintenance was accomplished successfully and safely.

The Antenna Maintenance technicians continued replacement of horizontal wires on antenna #07 screen side and replaced twelve (12) wires. On April 1st, a fault on field switch #1 for antennas #1/2 was detected. A burned logic card and varistor were replaced and calibrated.

On April 28th, VSWR was high on antenna #2. The bousson chair system was put in place and broken radiators and burned clamps were replaced.

Preventive maintenance on tower #18 was performed including scraping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint.

The Power Plant technicians did the valve lash operation on engine #1, Fuel Timing and Injector Synchronization as required.

The HVAC technicians repaired the copper tube of the water fountain at the power plant; replaced A/C inside unit in the Living room house #2; and replaced the batteries on the fire pump Engine. They also replaced one ballast in the lamp fixture under cabinet in house #2 kitchen. They worked on the light poles #1, #2, #3, #4, and #28, replacing photocells, lamps and replaced ballasts in lamps fixtures in Conference room and Admin Area. They also removed the step ladder of the old Sewage Tank, and repaired several leaks in the condenser coil that feeds TAB Kitchen.

All Station staff and the B&G crew worked hard to improve the appearance of the site in anticipation of the Open House representational event to host recently elected local government officials and appointed authorities. Following some brief speeches, tours of the station grounds were conducted by the Regional Station Manager and Deputy Station Manager. Then the buffet was held in the transmitter hallway.

Good progress was made by the air conditioning contractors on phase II of the chiller replacement project, with the transmitter hallway area and some peripheral offices already online with the large split units, and free of the chiller.

The following notable dates show a busy month at STTS.

April 11–21	Regional Station Manager visited the Station.
April 15	First workday of the FSNi (b) (6) hired by US Embassy Gabon.
April 18	Deputy Station Manager returned post from Home Leave.
April 18–25	Medical Practitioner (b) (6) from US Embassy Gabon visited Sao Tome to conduct physical exams for drivers and hands-only CPR for all Station staff.
April 19	Open House
April 23–27	FSTO Cashier Monitor (b) (6) visited the Station.
April 25	Bid opening for the canteen repair work.
April 25	The misrouted pouch (that was sent to Sao Tome instead of Porto Alegre in January) was finally sent to US Embassy Gabon for forwarding purposes.
April 29–May 3	Contracting Officer (b) (6) visited the Station.

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

Operations were normal for the month of April.

Affiliate's Status for the month of April: The Station established satellite receive connectivity with Measat-3, Intelsat-17 and Intelsat-19 and successfully connected these satellite signals to the Master Control Room at Rasom and Udorn Transmitter Plants for monitoring and evaluation. Also, a return feed- back to Washington DC was been established.

The staff continues to provide technical support to the Affiliates. They have been busy re-pointing satellite dishes, retuning/replacing satellite receivers for radio affiliates in Thailand at various locations, i.e. Nongkhai, Bangkok and Maha Salakham provinces.

TX secretary, Ysa from Philippines Transmitting Station visited Udorn site for consultation on April 28th-30th.

Deputy Manager, Clifford C. George arrived Thailand on April 30th.

During the month, the Station received 35 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty two shipments for the month of May. Twenty shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and three shipments were designated to Embassies including Kampala, Djibouti, and Dhaka. There were nine total FedEx shipments and one bureau shipment to OCB, and two imports from Sao Tome and Germany. The “other” shipments consisted of a DHL duty tax for Kinshasa shipment back in April, Germany’s shipment of antenna equipment going to Bangui, and ATP disposal costs for antenna equipment. Lastly, the logistics team completed seven deliveries from JCM to IBB and five pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 6/1/19, we have eight open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of April was 1414 and a total of 598 items inventoried. The Team added 35 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$391,936.73. We also deleted 51 Items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$21,278.85) with a total acquisition value of \$122,604.88.

M&R: The FY18 Three Year M&R plan was approved and TSI management prioritized 25 projects for FY18. The allotment for Quarter 2 was received on February 14, 2018. Funds were transferred to the overseas stations for a total of seven projects. To date funds have been transferred for a total of 15 out of the 25 prioritized projects. There are three complex procurement actions at CON: Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1 in Philippines (M&R 1624- \$250k), Design-Build Greenville – Replace Chillers and Control Systems (M&R 1618 - \$310k), and new A/E ID/IQ contract. We are working closely with CON and expect contract awards this FY. Another action is a task order for rigger training at Tinang. The proposal will be submitted soon and training is expected to start 6 to 8 weeks after award. (b) (6) visited Kuwait this month to investigate issues with the chilled water system and to perform an O&M Assessment. A trip report including findings and recommendations will be provided soon. In summary, the transmitting station lacks preventative maintenance to non-transmitter equipment and all facility equipment needs proper preventative maintenance and deficiencies corrected. In addition, chilled water systems need to be flushed, refilled, and chemical treatment applied to prolong equipment life.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT

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

Station had a 99.47% availability for the month.

On the 3rd of April the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy Gaborone to attend Country Team meeting.

On the 10th the Regional Station Manager travelled to Sao Tome transmitting station for site visit and attend the station's Representational Function. The Regional Station Manager arrived back on post on the 23rd.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of April was 99.75%. Overall transmission availability was 99.61%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC and loss of mains power to the station due to sync loss of the auxiliary generator while in the peak shaving mode.

GB-1 continues to substitute for a normally scheduled transmitter so that its operation and stability can be evaluated.

Additional Radio Marti programming was added to the station broadcast schedule. Radio Marti is now broadcasting three continuous frequencies to Cuba twenty-four hours per day. In addition, an additional frequency was added to broadcast the audio portion of TV Marti each week for five hours per day.

Work is progressing well on the installation of GB-2 and GB-3. Testing of the water and tuning motor systems of GB-2 began during the month with corrections made as needed.

Members of the North Carolina Society of Broadcast Engineers were given a tour of the site during the month.

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

The Station Admin staff traveled to the Embassy in Berlin for meetings with FMO and FMC staff to discuss various financial issues.

On April 9th -11th, (b) (6) travelled to Djibouti for technical support, meeting with RTD and for GFE annual inventory.

The Station has started plans for FM transmitter maintenance and operation training for technicians in the network and USAGM's foreign governmental partners. The training is planned to be held in Thailand due to the difficulty for foreign technicians like Afghans and Djiboutian to receive the Germany entry visa. There are less complication/restrictions for Thailand.

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

Station operations for April were executed as per routine, and station availability was 99.90%, with 5,876.5 scheduled broadcast hours.

On the 1st Deputy Station Manager, Sameh El-Halaby arrived from Washington DC after three weeks.

Station Administrative Assistant, (b) (6) departed to Washington DC on the 12th for training in SAP and returned on the 28th.

On the 15th, the H.R. Officer, (b) (6), and the H.R Specialist, Ms. (b) (6) visited the station.

Tutis International was contracted to conduct CPR/AED training for all staff. They held two sessions, one on the 17th and the second on the 23rd. Fifteen LES staff attended the training.

Al Aqsa General Trading Company completed the refurbishment of four offices which has given the Administration section a fresh look.

Station welcomed the Administrative Management Specialist, (b) (6) who came on board on the 28th.

On the 29th, the Station Manager conducted various security drill. The SelecTone system proved fully operational.

Facilities Section:

During the month of April rigging crew completed annual maintenance of Antenna A3 and monthly maintenance for the Rotatable A5 Antenna.

During the month of March and April, we performed total warehouse and containers clean up, lining up all un-needed items for auctions. On 14th April a Sealed Bid Sale was held at the station. The proceeds of the sale amounted to \$ 21,765.68

FM Station Updates for the Month of April 2019:

In the Following Months, re-negotiation of FM O&M Agreements/Contracts is to be determined:

- a. Sierra Leone
- b. Lebanon
- c. Ivory Coast
- d. Kenya
- e. Mauritania
- f. Dakar ,Senegal
- g. Hargeisa, Somaliland

Kuwait Transmitting Station will continue to work with Office of Contracts in Washington DC, to ensure that we continue broadcasting without any interruptions in the North Africa and Middle East regions.

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

REKTS:

The Northern Marianas Islands are experiencing drought like conditions as rainfall has diminished over the Commonwealth since January. Saipan and Tinian has had less than one inch of cumulative rainfall for the month of April. This has spawned many brush fires throughout the islands where dry trees and brush blown over from Super Typhoon Yutu is overly abundant. A large brush fire pushed by predominate winds approached Tinian Station on April 29th. RRC Staff and Firefighters battled the fire late into the night and was aided by a brief but much needed rain shower that extinguished what remained in the early hours of April 30th.

After 6 months, commercial power was restored to Tinian Station on April 29th. All utility equipment between the Station and the Power Plant aside from the underground cable has been replaced with new. The new utility feeding the station is supported by all new concrete poles that offer superior resiliency to typhoons when compared to typical creosol poles.

Tinian and Saipan stations continue to use salvaged material to restore antennas, re-establish broadcast, and meet mission. Antenna 270M on Saipan is up and only minor repairs to ground support systems are needed prior to testing for broadcast. Antenna 313H on Tinian is 100% complete. Testing began on April 30th. We expect to request broadcast very early in May.

Mr. (b) (6) arrived onboard REKTS on April 28th. He will be supporting the station in the restoration of the SCADA system, installation of ethernet switches, intersite microwave repairs, installation of a new satellite dish for Saipan, re-orient Saipan and Tinian existing satellite dish to

Intelsat 19, restoring Tinian antenna field automation systems, and repairing the outdoor fiber optic connection on Tinian.

(b) (6) arrived onboard April 30th for a site visit on behalf of Station Manager.

Tinian:

The site is back on commercial power on 29th April, six (6) months after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the whole island of Tinian. Tinian operations had 99.40% reliability during this month with 315.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 1.89 hours of program outage and 24 off/on events. One (1) commercial power outage encountered this month with 0.07 hour loss time. Transmitter related problem attributed to 0.02 hour of outage and 1.80 hours due to antenna arcing and antenna control/communication related issues. On 29th April a wild fire threatened the site's antenna field and RRC personnel were able to successfully keep the fires from approaching the towers and anchors. RRC personnel remained on site to ensure the fires did not approach any building or compound equipment

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.96% reliability during this month with 522.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.23 hour of program outage and 10 off/on events. Eleven (11) commercial power outages/fluctuation encountered this month with no loss time.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station April 2nd, 4th, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 25th for recovery efforts, O&M Contract surveillance, and other administrative duties.

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

Station Manager (b) (6) arrived post Manila April 17th, from TDY in CNMI and Headquarters, Washington DC.

Messrs. (b) (6) Supervisory Telecom Engineer and Deputy Manager, (b) (6) departed on the 27th and 29th for a TDY in CNMI. Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6) arrived on April 29th, from Advanced Simplified Acquisition Procedures and CON 244, Construction Contracting training and consultation in Washington DC.

There were various visitors and universities visits throughout the month. On the 2nd, 47 students and 2 faculty members from Adamson University, Manila; on the 11th, 18 students and 2 faculty members from Central Philippines University, Iloilo; and on the 16th, 15 students and 1 Faculty members from AMA Computer College Tarlac. Two Aboitiz Power personnel visited the site to conduct thermal scanning of station's electrical system on the 15th. (b) (6) conducted LGF annual security training on the 24th.

On the 22nd at 5:11pm, the station experienced a strong earthquake (Intensity 5 on the Richter scale). No damage noted from the ocular inspection performed in and outside the building.

PTS hosted this year's Annual High Frequency Broadcasting Committee (HFBC) Meeting on April 26th, at Tinang Station. The event was attended by the agency heads, radio technicians and engineers from NTC, PBS and FEBC. USAGM Radio Technicians toured the guest at MCR, Transmitter hall and SIS building.

Selected for Machinist position (b) (6) will report to the Station on May 15th. Vacancy announcement for Safety and Security Technician, GS-7 has been posted to the Manila Embassy ERA.

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

The STTS broadcast operations were routine in April. Transmitter availability was 99.95%. Transmitter plant had a total of 2,724 program broadcast hours with 1.40 hours of program outage and only 7 off/ons. Two Operational Memos were received and implemented.

On April 1st, at 0400 hours, SAO-2 was unable to tune up and lost 1 hour of KNKR program. A lack of 24 Volts at antenna #2 prevented it from connecting. At 1630 the same day SAO-2 lost 0.17 hour of English to Sudan due to a technical problem at NCC.

On April 8th, a power outage at the studio removed program from AOR42 causing 10 minutes loss of Net F2 KNKR on SAO-1 and SAO-2 respectively.

On April 23rd, 44 minutes of Deutsche Welle program were lost. During the month of April 2019, there were no power outages. No accidents or minor injuries were reported. All routine tasks and scheduled maintenance was accomplished successfully and safely.

The Antenna Maintenance technicians continued replacement of horizontal wires on antenna #07 screen side and replaced twelve (12) wires. On April 1st, a fault on field switch #1 for antennas #1/2 was detected. A burned logic card and varistor were replaced and calibrated.

On April 28th, VSWR was high on antenna #2. The bousson chair system was put in place and broken radiators and burned clamps were replaced.

Preventive maintenance on tower #18 was performed including scraping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint.

The Power Plant technicians did the valve lash operation on engine #1, Fuel Timing and Injector Synchronization as required.

The HVAC technicians repaired the copper tube of the water fountain at the power plant; replaced A/C inside unit in the Living room house #2; and replaced the batteries on the fire pump Engine. They also replaced one ballast in the lamp fixture under cabinet in house #2 kitchen. They worked on the light poles #1, #2, #3, #4, and #28, replacing photocells, lamps and replaced ballasts in lamps fixtures in Conference room and Admin Area. They also removed the step ladder of the old Sewage Tank and repaired several leaks in the condenser coil that feeds TAB Kitchen.

All Station staff and the B&G crew worked hard to improve the appearance of the site in anticipation of the Open House representational event to host recently elected local government officials and appointed authorities. Following some brief speeches, tours of the station grounds were conducted by the Regional Station Manager and Deputy Station Manager. Then the buffet was held in the transmitter hallway.

Good progress was made by the air conditioning contractors on phase II of the chiller replacement project, with the transmitter hallway area and some peripheral offices already online with the large split units, and free of the chiller.

The following notable dates show a busy month at STTS.

April 11–21	Regional Station Manager visited the Station.
April 15	First workday of the FSNi (b) (6) hired by US Embassy Gabon.
April 18	Deputy Station Manager returned post from Home Leave.
April 18–25	Medical Practitioner (b) (6) from US Embassy Gabon visited Sao Tome to conduct physical exams for drivers and hands-only CPR for all Station staff.
April 19	Open House
April 23–27	FSTO Cashier Monitor (b) (6) visited the Station.
April 25	Bid opening for the canteen repair work.
April 25	The misrouted pouch (that was sent to Sao Tome instead of Porto Alegre in January) was finally sent to US Embassy Gabon for forwarding purposes.
April 29–May 3	Contracting Officer (b) (6) visited the Station.

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

Operations were normal for the month of April.

Affiliate's Status for the month of April: The Station established satellite receive connectivity with Measat-3, Intelsat-17 and Intelsat-19 and successfully connected these satellite signals to the Master Control Room at Rasom and Udon Transmitter Plants for monitoring and evaluation. Also, a return feed- back to Washington DC was been established.

The staff continues to provide technical support to the Affiliates. They have been busy re-pointing satellite dishes, retuning/replacing satellite receivers for radio affiliates in Thailand at various locations, i.e. Nongkhai, Bangkok and Maha Salakhm provinces.

TX secretary, (b) (6) from Philippines Transmitting Station visited Udon site for consultation on April 28th-30th.

Deputy Manager, (b) (6) arrived Thailand on April 30th.

During the month, the Station received 35 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)

Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty-two shipments for the month of May. Twenty shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and three shipments were designated to Embassies including Kampala, Djibouti, and Dhaka. There were nine total FedEx shipments and one bureau shipment to OCB, and two imports from Sao Tome and Germany. The “other” shipments consisted of a DHL duty tax for Kinshasa shipment back in April, Germany’s shipment of antenna equipment going to Bangui, and ATP disposal costs for antenna equipment. Lastly, the logistics team completed seven deliveries from JCM to IBB and five pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 6/1/19, we have eight open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS this month was 1414 and a total of 598 items inventoried. The Team added 35 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$391,936.73. We also deleted 51 items from PIPS (1 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$21,278.85) with a total acquisition value of \$122,604.88.
- The Fleet Management Plan and Budget Narrative was submitted to GSA via Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) ahead of the May 31st deadline.

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

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

Station had a **99.23%** availability for the month.

The temperature has started to retreat to a bearable range and the B&G contractor is happy for that. The station had many outdoor projects on tap for the month of May. The M&R project 1903 is well under way. The water that settled under the cattle grid after the heavy rain will now freely pour into the newly built run-off. This will reduce the mosquito population significantly.

The elephant deterrent project is moving along as well. The area that cleared next to the MW transmission coaxial line was starting to see growth again. The B&G crew over the course of the month has re-scraped the area to eliminate new growth of bush.

On the 10th, the Regional Station Manager travelled to US Embassy Gaborone for meeting with Ambassador Cloud.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of May was 99.81%. Overall transmission availability was 99.74%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC and a mains overvoltage condition, which affected GB-8.

GB-1 continues to substitute for normally scheduled transmitters so that its operation and stability can be evaluated.

Work continues to progress well on the installation of GB-2 and GB-3.

The auxiliary generator operated in the peak mode for several days during the month due to higher than normal utility rates.

Visitors for the month included several amateur radio operators, (b) (6) with <https://swling.com/blog/>, (b) (6) with Continental Electronics, and (b) (6), author of The Worldwide Listening Guide.

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

Technical Staff visited RFE/RL Prague Offices May 6th through the 8th for technical support & meeting with key RFE/RL technical staff in the satellite section and USAGM marketing office.

(b) (6) departed on May 18th for Tajikistan for meeting and consultation with TELERADIOCOM, Support MW/SW transmitters, and for engineering work upgrading software/hardware in the transmitters and surrounding systems.

Station Manager (b) (6) has departed Germany for home leave on May 31st.

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

Station's operations for the month of May were executed as per routine and the station availability was at 99.94%, with 6,117 scheduled broadcast hours.

Ramadan began on the 6th and the Station work schedules were changed to accommodate special Ramadan leave provisions under the LES staffing plan.

On the 9th of May, the Station welcomed the Economic Section of the Embassy. A team of six toured the Station.

The Station had an EEO training conducted by (b) (6). The training was very informative and he shared the content of the training for those who could not attend it.

The Station Manager, (b) (6), departed for the U.S. on the 30th on Home Leave. (b) (6) is scheduled to return in July. Before he left, he announced that his absence would be filled by (b) (6) who is scheduled to arrive on the 7th of June.

Station's telephone lines have been down from the 21st of the month and the Station is working with the Ministry of Communication to fix it.

Facilities Section:

Facilities staff contributed to the completion of 4-office room refurbish projects which were finally installed with new furniture and internal cabling. Antenna technicians assisted for the installation of weather monitoring station that is capable of remote monitoring of the station weather readings from the internet.

Antenna crews attended new shortwave antenna projects and completed coaxial line relocation from column 11 to column 6 as per (b) (6) advice. Also completed the open feeder line from the BALUN to Antenna feeding point.

Facilities staff completed the monthly maintenance of the Rotatable antenna, 7 Tower Medium wave antenna and street lights. Repaired 32 defective streetlights during maintenance.

FM Station Updates for the Month of May 2019:

Next Month, negotiation of FM O&M Agreements/Contracts is to be determined:

Sierra Leone

Lebanon

Ivory Coast

Kenya

Mauritania

Kuwait Transmitting Station will continue to work with Office of Contracts in Washington DC, to ensure that we continue broadcasting without any interruptions in the North Africa and Middle East regions.

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

REKTS, began May with (b) (6), PTS Deputy Manager, (b) (6), PTS Telecommunications Engineer, and (b) (6), Civil Engineer, Network Support Branch (T/EOS/N) on board to support ongoing recovery efforts. Specifically, (b) (6) arrived on April 30th to conduct a site visit on behalf of the Station Manager and departed May 6th. (b) (6) arrived on May 2nd and departed May 15th. While aboard, (b) (6) performed antenna surveys on both Saipan and Tinian. He also began developing the SOW for structural repairs for Saipan's 195M Tower C. (b) (6) arrived on board April 27th and is scheduled to depart in early June. (b) (6) completed the installation and configuration of the new Saipan SCADA that was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu. He also completed the migration from AsiaSat to IntelSat 19 for Saipan along with the installation and configuration of new Wellav DVB-S2 receiver. Additionally, (b) (6), managed the Tinian fiber rehabilitation. Circuits between the microwave shelter and the main transmitter building have been configured back to 1Gbps from 100Mbps following Super Typhoon Yutu.

Recovery and salvage efforts are ongoing. Through these efforts, antennas 313H Tinian and 270M Saipan returned to service on May 17th and May 30th respectively. Both antennas were immediately added to the schedule recovering nearly 20 hours of Radio Free Asia broadcast daily.

The dry season has finally passed. Seasonal rains started about mid-month and has brought life back to the islands. The grass now seems to be on a mission to catch up and the B&G folks have been hard at it the past few weeks. We continue to be plagued with power outages through ongoing utility repairs on both Saipan and Tinian. As a result, we have seen an increase in loss time.

On May 10th Rome Research Corporation (RRC), Saipan Transmitter Supervisor (b) (6) [REDACTED]. RRC has selected (b) (6) [REDACTED] as the new Transmitter Supervisor for Saipan. The candidate was vetted and approved in accordance with contract requirements. (b) (6) [REDACTED] is expected to report on 15 July 2019.

REKTS Administration Officer departed on leave May 13th and returned May 24th.

Tinian:

On 17-May, Antenna 313H returned to service. It is added to usable asset after seven (7) weeks of repair as it started broadcasting on the 19th of May. Tinian operations had 99.81% reliability during this month with 437.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.85 hour of program outage and 17 off/on events. Three (3) commercial power outages/fluctuations encountered this month with 0.33 hour loss time. Transmitter related problem attributed to 0.52 hour of outage.

Saipan:

On the 30th of May, Antenna 270M returned to service. Saipan operations had 99.89% reliability during this month with 538.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.57 hour of program outage and seven (7) off/on events. Thirteen (13) commercial power outages/fluctuations encountered this month with 0.08 hour loss time.

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

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Station Manager (b) (6) [REDACTED] departed post Manila on the 10th for TDY at Headquarters, Washington DC. Deputy Manager, (b) (6) [REDACTED] arrived post Manila on the 7th, from a TDY in CNMI. The station had various visitors throughout the month. On May 1, eight station guards attended the annual firearms training conducted by (b) (6) [REDACTED] using the station's training room. On the second, 46 students and one faculty member from Laguna State Polytechnic University, San Pablo, and Laguna visited the station for an educational tour. On the 10th, (b) (6) [REDACTED], Cashier Monitor Supervisor and (b) (6) [REDACTED], Cashier monitor from CGFS Bangkok, Thailand visited the station to review cashier operations.

An annual representation dinner with local military and police officials was held on May 29th, at Peri-Peri Restaurant, Capas, Tarlac.

TRANSMITTER

The station's overall availability for the month was 99.67%. The total scheduled program was 2,049.1 hours. Total program outage was 6.8 hours and 17 off/on. Majority of the broadcast outage 72.7% was due to program feed failures; 7.9% on transmitter related failures and 19.4% on antenna related failures and 0.0% for power related failure. Station's broadcast equipment overall availability was at 99.91 %.

PHT-4: Completed transfer of the SSM PA screen power supply bank from the "D" container to the SSM power column cage. This will prepare or provide space for the forthcoming full servo AUTO tuning equipment. Replaced defective digital meter of YKS-06 showing bad readout.

PHT-7: Replaced defective digital meter of YKS-06 showing bad readout on the 7th. Replaced solenoid valve A98 found with torn diaphragm during isolation of high consumption of cooling water on the 29th.

PHT-10: Replaced frozen harmonic filter capacitor C59 capacitor type CV2A-1000E/30, calibrated harmonic filter network after on the 15th.

PHT-11: Replaced impeller shafting of low-pressure blower due to worn out end shaft on the 6th.

Antenna Slewer 032-035: Replaced severely arc-damaged mechanical type slew switch.

Telecommunications Unit

PTU received information from Global Network regarding carrier level increase on Intelsat 19 signal on the 3rd and sent plot to Global Network for confirmation.

Station experienced loss of MPLS signal on the 9th and the 10th. Loss of signal on the MPLS, AsiaSat and Intelsat-19 and some intermittent signal on the Intelsat 17 & 19 on the 15th and 16th due to UPS maintenance at NCC.

The VOA/RFA China carrier was activated on SES-9 satellite this month. Coordinated with Global Network and the uplink site in resolving the problem and the content was inserted on the Tinang MPLS Transport DCM as requested.

We Received 20 Wellav IRD's with cables from Washington. These receivers were configured in preparation for the dish reorientation activity at affiliate sites in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Complied with the Network/GGibbs instruction to check the levels of IOR B-Pol VC 340 Global SD Video and VOA Africa carriers on NSS-12 satellite using a smaller antenna on the 29th. Sent the requested plots to Global Network/GGibbs. Transmit power for VC 340 Global SD Video carrier was also increased by 1.5dB as requested by Global Network to address low carrier level issues at some African affiliate sites.

TRAINING and TRAVEL

(b) (6), and (b) (6) attended the Certified Premises Cabling Technician Training on April 29th - May 3rd at Pasig City.

On the 28th, (b) (6) and (b) (6) left for TDY in Indonesia to work on reorienting satellite dishes to Measat 3 satellites at affiliate sites.

FACILITIES

Backup HVAC System for TX and Admin buildings:

The vendor completed the installation of the new HVAC system in the Transmitter and Admin buildings.

Perimeter Graveled Road Project:

The station awarded a contract for the annual perimeter road maintenance. The project should be completed before the start of the rainy season. Work includes pothole repair and compaction of the entire perimeter road.

Station Electrical Equipment Thermal Scanning:

In May, the contractor completed thermal scanning of the station's high voltage equipment. The results will be presented on June 4th at the station.

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

STTS broadcast operations were routine in May. Transmitter availability was 99.91%. Transmitter plant had a total of 2,817 program broadcast hours with 2.42 hours of program outage and 14 off/ons.

May 7th, Station requested and implemented one Operational Memorandum. This operational memo allowed the station to operate transmitter SAO-A at 3db below its nominal power to facilitate a safe fuel offload.

May 14, a technical problem at Radio Master Control removed audio from AOR42 at 1700 UTC. Station lost 1.5 hour of Portuguese program.

On May 15th, antenna #7 went defective due to a broken vertical radiator which caused VSWR to increase above transmitter accepted limit. 0.92 hours of Net B English program were lost on SAO-4.

Station prepared two CQK 50-2 and four CQK 650-1 low emission tubes to send back to Washington, DC. Tubes with serial numbers 771983, 707575, 580914, 638442, 571753 and

755492 will be shipped to JCM Logistics, to be forwarded to CPI-Econco for the rebuilding process.

During this month, all scheduled tasks at the Facilities Plant were accomplished with success and in a safe environment. The fuel off-loading operation was completed on May 7 & 8. It is a more than 24 hour continuous task where all the sections take part including the B&G team. The tanker arrived on time, and the new fuel hose performed as expected. The operation would have been the quickest ever, however some unusual time delays by a local customs agent added nearly 5 hours to the total time.

On May 20th, Santomean government officials requested an emergency meeting with STTS management. They announced that their shipment of diesel fuel was delayed due to disputes in the Angolan port. Therefore, the island's fuel stations would be dry, and the power plants would be off-line soon. They expected the tanker to arrive Friday May 24, but there would be at least a 3 day gap of no electricity or fuel for the island. This situation had previously caused road blockades, fires and unrest, creating unpopularity of the government. Therefore, the officials were requesting help from STTS in the form of a diesel fuel loan. Fast work by USAGM staff in DC resulted in permission for STTS to loan 160,000 liters of diesel fuel. A Deferred Payment Agreement was drawn up indicating that the value of the loaned fuel would be deducted from the lease amount USAGM pays to the Sao Tome government annually. The agreement was signed by all pertinent individuals on May 22.

Other unscheduled tasks came up as follows:

The Antenna Maintenance team set up the bosun chair system on antenna #07 in order to perform remedial work. They replaced broken vertical radiator assemblies and burned clamps. So far, fifteen horizontal wires were replaced on the screen side. The technicians analyzed a fault on antenna #05 and replaced the reverse relay contact 24V and fuse FMN 2 ½ Amps on RF switch #03. It is back to normal function. The riggers are carrying on with preventive maintenance on tower #18, i.e. scraping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint.

The Power Plant technicians removed the alternator from the engine #4. They performed valve lash adjustments on generator #3 and made adjustments on the fuel timing and injector synchronization. They also corrected a malfunction on the day-tank return pump.

HVAC technicians installed three air conditioner units in the residence #3, fixed the B&G supervisor office air conditioner, installed three bird-repelling sprinklers at swimming pool, and fixed the A/C on a Toyota Hiace shift van. HVAC conducted refresher fire extinguisher training for all station personnel. They fixed the oven in the TAB kitchen, fixed the air conditioner at the

HVAC/ Motor pool office, replaced 2 lamps fixtures in the garage at the residence #3 and fixed the water leakage between Facilities office and ex-Morganti building.

The B&G Team as usual fulfilled their mission at the station by keeping our site neat and clean, and supported other sections, accomplishing their scheduled and unscheduled tasks.

On May 13, the Station Evaluation Panel opened the proposals received for the Sealed Bid Auction of two old station vehicles, a 2010 Nissan Hardbody Pickup Truck and 1998 Ford Expedition. The sales were completed and the vehicles removed by their new owners.

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

Operations were normal for the month of May.

The Embassy GSO toured Udon facilities and DEA compound on May 7-8.

May 2-12, 2019 FSN Radio Technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6) traveled to Ulaanbaatar and South Korea for repointing satellite dishes, retuning/replacing satellite receivers to USAGM's Intelsat 17_19 C-band.

The station received a request from Thai government to carry live broadcasts of The Royal Coronation of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, Rama X. The broadcasts were carried from May 3-6, 2019. Some VOA programming was preempted in order to accommodate the request.

On May 24, 2019, the station received a second request from the Thai government to carry live broadcasts of the State Ceremony for the Opening of the National Assembly, which was broadcast as requested and approved.

The Transmitter staff provided technical support to the Affiliates. They repointed satellite dishes and retuned or replaced satellite receivers for various FM Radio Affiliates in Thailand.

The following Operation Memos were implemented during the month:

A19-015 changes on BAK-01

A19-033 changes on UDO-2

A19-038 changes on BAK-01

May 24-26, USAGM/Office of Business Development Operations Manager, Ms. (b) (6), USAGM Deputy Director for Operations, (b) (6) and Managing Director for Southeast Asia, Radio Free Asia (b) (6), traveled to Udon site and visited Affiliate Radio Stations in Nong Khai.

During the month, the Station received 35 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of a total of fifty-one shipments for the month of June. Eighteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and nine shipments were designated to Embassies including Kabul, Djibouti, Accra, and Seoul. There were four total FedEx shipments. The “other” shipments consisted of antenna equipment to Texagroup Inc for the FM Deployment branch. We also shipped lithium batteries to (b) (6), and various ATP projects including the Emmitsburg equipment removal and the removal of a Satellite system for (b) (6). Lastly, the logistics team completed thirteen deliveries from JCM to IBB and two pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 7/1/19, we have six open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Logistics Team also, completed the submission of the 2019 Sustainability Plan and continued steps to selecting a new vendor for the new logistics contract. The team initiated a site visit to our logistics warehouses in Chantilly VA, for the potential new vendors on June 25th. We also completed a trip to Emmetsburg MD, (the COOP) to complete the recovery and transportation of all equipment and the closing of the site.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of June was 935 and a total of 306 items inventoried. The Team added 52 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$803,675.74. We also deleted 20 Items from PIPS (2 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$39,609.17) with a total acquisition value of \$99,060.90.

M&R: The program received 100% of the FY19 allotment. WDC transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund 13 programmed projects. A couple of projects for Greenville were deferred to fund the urgent need for replacement of incoming feeders. **Ongoing M&R projects:** Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System project is ongoing, with the DB contractor on site installing panels and wiring. AECOM inspection is on schedule for the week of July 29th. Greenville Chillers Project – SBA accepted offer to use the second 8(a) contractor, Reliance as Legacy Construction proposal was unacceptable. A site visit has been scheduled for July 10th. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires project is ongoing, (b) (6) approved details of new antenna counterweight wire ropes for five antennas and materials have been ordered. Materials’ fabrication has been delayed and work is now expected to start Sept/Oct time frame. Sao Tome MW Tower – CON sent a cure notice to contractor as they continued changing their plans to provide a new tower. Contractor has responded to the notice and their working plan is currently under review. **M&R Contracting Actions:** Task Order for Saipan Towers Inspection was awarded to EJC. Other procurement actions: Antenna Maintenance and Repair ID/IQ, Tinian TCI Low Band Dipole Curtain, and Task Order for Tinang TX Hall A/C.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY

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

Station had a **99.93%** availability for the month.

On 18 June, the Station welcomed the American Interns, (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6) and (b) (6), they were given a tour of the station by the Regional Station Manager.

On the 19th USAGM Botswana station, staff welcomed Ambassador (b) (6) and his delegation, which included USAID Country Director Ms. (b) (6). The Ambassador toured the Station and later met with all of the USAGM Botswana staff to give Service and other awards.

The Station Manager, (b) (6) departed Post on the 24th for training and Annual Leave in the States. He is expected to arrive post on July 29th.

On the 27th HRO (b) (6) and HR Assistant (b) (6), visited the station to update USAGM staff on revised Policies, visited the Station.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of June was 99.96%. Overall transmission availability was 99.47%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC.

On June 25th, the station experienced an extensive program feed loss from WDC which affected all transmissions.

The station attempted to use the telco back-up units but were advised by the NCC that their encoding units had been previously removed from service and were no longer available for our use.

The station then coordinated directly with OCB and was able to restore the Marti feed via the internet. A short time later, NCC resolved the problem and the normal program feeds were restored.

Recently installed transmitter GB-2 breathed its first RF into the station test load confirming that the RF deck and modulator were functional. Final interface cabling and commissioning remains to be done.

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

On June 14-27th, Tech Liaison Engineer & Automation Supervisor, (b) (6) was in Kuwait for training local staff on FM monitoring System and MS Dynamics 360 together with (b) (6) from USAGM headquarter.

To assist in various administrative duties within the Satellite Earth Station operation, station welcomed an Intern between June 11th and June 21st. The intern had to pass a full RSO security check at the Consulate in Frankfurt. Due to her skills, the intern was quickly able to program IRDs and to restore the operation of the Kathrein test IRD system. Well, two weeks is not a too long training period but the intern provided a positive feedback while working at a broadcast station.

On June 18th station staff was introduced in the operation of the new defibrillators installed at both USAGM Germany sites. The new units are installed a most critical areas – easy access considered. The old vintage defibrillators are now retired and will be properly disposed.

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

Station's operations for the month of June executed as per routine, and the station availability was at 99.97%, with 5,802 scheduled broadcast hours.

The first week of June marked the end of Ramadan with a long weekend of 5 days from the 4th through the 8th.

Station welcomed (b) (6), who arrived from the U.S. to take over (b) (6) office as the Acting Station Manager for three weeks from June 9th. (b) (6) personally met almost all the staff at the station including the newest replacement staff (b) (6), the Storekeeper and (b) (6), the new Radio Technician. Both of the newcomers came on board on June 23rd.

The Embassy conducted an Annual Awards Ceremony on June 13th. USAGM staff cheered at the news that they are being awarded "Time-Off from Duty Award." In addition, USAGM driver, (b) (6) was awarded the "Safe Driving" award, and Radio Technician, (b) (6) was awarded for length of service. Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6) attended the ceremony to see the LES Staff receive their award and congratulated each of the awardees.

Station had two visitors; (b) (6) from Washington DC, and (b) (6) from Germany. Both visitors arrived on June 14th. (b) (6) departed on June 21st and (b) (6) departed on June 27th. They conducted training on FM Monitoring and automation.

On June 26th, station staff assembled in the conference room to hear words of appreciation from (b) (6). He appreciated every person's contribution to the effective running of the station.

Those who could not make it to the Awards Ceremony earlier in the month received their award from (b) (6). The meeting ended with an announcement of his scheduled departure on 27th.

A great deal of inconvenience was experienced by the Station staff and the vendors, due to the breakdown of landlines on May 21st. A complaint was filed with the Ministry of Communications (MOC). MOC personnel has been working at the USAGM facilities intermittently from June 25th and successfully managed to get nine landlines out of 10 in an operational state.

Facilities Section:

Facilities staff completed the most critical parts of the new shortwave antenna and feeder. Work completed during this month includes bend points jumpers of the open feeder and horizontal to the vertical transition of the feeder line. All the necessary parts was fabricated in house using raw materials. Moreover, scheduled safety training for facilities staff during the month of June.

- June 9th Rigging and lifting safety
- June 10th Fall Protection techniques
- June 13th Welding and gas cutting safety
- June 19th Boom truck operator safety

In addition, facilities staff attended regular breakdowns and maintenance of station facilities plant systems. Repaired station main gate roller door. Assisted in setting up new office rooms for Storekeeper and drivers. Carried out maintenance of Rotatable antenna and seven towers medium wave antenna.

FM Station Updates for the Month of May 2019:

Next Month, negotiation of FM O&M Agreements/Contracts is to be determined:

- a. Sierra Leone
- b. Ivory Coast
- c. Mauritania

Kuwait Transmitting Station will continue to work with Office of Contracts in Washington DC, to ensure that we continue broadcasting without any interruptions in the North Africa and Middle East regions.

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

REKTS:

Spring has come to an end and summer is upon us. REKTS has renewed its salvage efforts lowering damaged antennas 267H and 295M for disassembly, cleaning, sorting, and storage for re-use. Salvaged parts from these two systems will go a long way in restoring our first low-band system targeted for November.

Eight months post Super Typhoon Yutu while facing daunting obstacles moral remains high, restoration projects continue to forge ahead with enthusiasm. On Tinian, staff have repainted safety rails, bollards, exterior pipping, and miscellaneous equipment. On Saipan, staff have pressure washed, stripped old paint, and have begun re-painting buildings.

After a very productive visit, (b) (6), PTS Telecommunications Engineer, departed Saipan on June 9th. While on board, (b) (6) installed the new Saipan SCADA, managed the migration from AsiaSat to IntelSat 19 for Saipan, and installed Wellav DVB-S2 receivers. Additionally, (b) (6) managed the Tinian fiber rehabilitation. Circuits between the microwave shelter and the main transmitter building have been configured back to 1Gbps from 100Mbps following damage from Super Typhoon Yutu. (b) (6) also inspected and documented existing security system conditions on both Saipan and Tinian for planned system improvements. (b) (6) help and the momentous support from PTS have been crucial to the successful recovery of station assets.

The administrative staff has begun preparing for the fiscal year close out. We have established in-house milestones to ensure we meet or precede agency deadlines.

Tinian:

Tinian operations had 99.71% reliability during this month with 465.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 1.33 hours of program outages and 10 off/on events. One (1) commercial power outage encountered this month with no loss time reported. Program feed related issues attributed to 0.32 hour of outage, 0.30 hour is related to transmitter tuning and the remaining 0.71 hour is antenna arcing issues.

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.79% reliability during this month with 840.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 1.80 hours of program outages and five (5) off/on events. One (1) commercial power outage/power fluctuation encountered this month with no loss time reported.

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

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Station Manager Mr. William Martin arrived post Manila on the 13th from TDY in Headquarters, Washington DC.

Deputy Manager, (b) (6) attended PA217 Supervising a Cashier training on the 10 to 14, in WDC. Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6)

Supervisory Telecom Engineer, (b) (6) arrived post Manila on the 9th from a TDY in CNMI. Supervisory Admin Management Specialist, (b) (6) travel to WDC on the 15th to attend training on Contract Administration and Contracting Officer's Representative Training.

On the 6th, 52 students and 1 faculty member from San Carlos University, Cebu City visited the station for their educational tour.

Station's chauffeur, (b) (6) retired last June he serve more than 25 years of service. On June 26th, the Management Team held an interview for the vacant Radio Operator Technician (Safety and Security) Specialist. (b) (6) was selected for that vacancy, and shall be promoted effective July 7, 2019. Due to MBC implementation, various vacancies - Radio Technician, Radio Technician Trainee and Chauffeur are still with HR/BRCC for recertification.

TRANSMITTER

The station's overall availability for the month was 99.61%. The total scheduled program was 1,994 hours. Total program outage was 7.8 hours and 13 off/ons. Majority of the broadcast outage (88.5%) due to program feed failures from PBS studio, 6.8% on transmitter related failures, 10.7% on antenna related failures, while 0.0 % for power related failure. Station's broadcast equipment overall availability was at 99.93 %.

PHT-4: On the 6th, replaced SSM Audio Patch card (A4) due to measured slight distortion during POP/FND measurement and on the 18th, secured MP4 servo connections and replaced defective servo positioning potentiometer (dual POT) to restore loss servo position read back.

PHT-7: On the 11th, replaced burnt T41 transformer, (3) each surge protection capacitors C42 of (X4) -800VDC rectifier/power supply bank.

PHT-12: Manually shut down from June 3 – 6 to perform repair and rehabilitation of the PA tube boiler due to multiple arc hole causing cooling water leaks. Pulled out retaining strap of the PA tube boiler to access pinholes for cleanup and brazing. Replaced eight (8) worn out hose clamps of PA boiler, worn-out rubber gasket at the water drainpipe fitting beneath the boiler. Thoroughly clean the interior of the boiler and replaced cooling water.

SSM System: Replaced thirteen (13) units of power switch modules on ABB/BBC transmitters.

Telecommunications Unit

On the 7th, the VOA service has been activated on Eutelsat 70B. Our station has confirmed receiving the signal and all program contents were monitored except for channel 140 with RFA 1 and RFA 2 programs, which was reported to Global Network thru (b) (6). The CNC World News Program was also transferred to an adjacent carrier. The assigned receiver has been reconfigured to the new parameters to re acquire the signal.

On the 10th, the Measat 3 Service Provider activated a test frequency for evaluation. It is a QPSK modulated signal, which should yield better performance with smaller antennas. As part of the evaluation, our station sent some plots of the new carrier and the PHT team in Indonesia did some actual testing in locking into the new carrier. It was observed that it is easier to acquire the test carrier compared to the active one.

On the 11th, Asiasat 7 MCPC carrier was deactivated. The station is now using programs from Intelsat-19 and Intelsat-17 as the backup for the transmitters.

On the 17th, encountered loss of MPLS signal 0929 UTC affected the program sources and data communication. Data circuit was restored at 0646 UTC and the MPLS program stream at 1022 UTC on June 18th.

Prepared necessary wirings and configuration to uplink VOA Africa programs via NSS 12 B Pol as backup to Lampertheim uplink station. Tested the uplink from PHT in coordination with

TRAINING and TRAVEL

On 3rd to 7th, five (5) LES attended the Gas Welding, Cutting and Brazing Training and on the 19th to 21st and 26th to 28th, two batches of PHT Radio Technicians, with 5 persons per batch, attended the High Voltage Cable Splicing and Termination Training at MFI Polytechnic Institute Inc., Pasig City.

On 17th to 21st, (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended the Implementing Cisco Collaboration Devices CICD training at Trends, Makati City.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) travelled to Indonesia from May 28 to June 15, 2019 to work on reorienting satellite dishes to Measat 3 satellites at the affiliate sites.

FACILITIES

Backup HVAC System for Transmitter Hall: Installation of six 3-ton Carrier Air Condition units at the transmitter hall is ongoing. The ailing air conditioning system is +20 years old. Perimeter Graveled Road Project completed.

Station Electrical Equipment Thermal Scanning: In May, the contractor completed thermal scanning of the station's high voltage equipment. The results were presented this month. Approximately fifty (50) infrared scans were taken as part of this thermal scanning. In general, the equipment that were scanned appeared to be in good condition and good working order. It was noted in the Aboitiz report that most of the equipment scanned at substation were properly maintained and monitored.

Poro Antenna Tower Inspection: From June 24th to 27th, two LES riggers conducted antenna tower inspections at the Poro station. Structural towers members were considered to be in good condition despite minor corrosion and paint flaking on auxiliary members of the tower. In addition, transmission line beam post grounding wires are missing, beacon lights and side lights are all in working condition, however, 3 out of 5 photo cell are not working.

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

Operations were anything but routine in June. Broadcast availability was reduced from last month to 99.88%. The Transmitter Plant had 2716 program broadcast hours, with 3.10 outage hours and only 3 off/ons. No Operational Memos were received.

On June 2nd SAO-A went down when the Step Data Acquisition YCP10 card failed and removed carrier power. Thirteen minutes of Portuguese program was lost.

On June 22nd SAO-4 suddenly shut down due to excessive power amplifier control grid current. The driver stage box was faulty. 0.22 hours of Hausa program was lost.

On June 25th during the weekly preventive maintenance on SAO-A, water leakage was found in the filament rectifier circuit. An immediate and exhaustive corrective action began. The complete assembly was removed to solder the leaking water jackets for the rectifiers. Due to the complexity of the circuit and the limited space within the cabinet, the installation ran long. We were unable to start the regular broadcast at 1600 hours. The Station lost 1 hour of English, 1 hour of Portuguese and 0.33 hour of French programs.

On June 28th a defective unit system YCP 16 card dropped transmitter SAO-2 to STBY and prevented it from tuning back ON. Twenty minutes of KNKR was lost.

During this month, all scheduled tasks at the Facilities Plant were accomplished with success and in a safe environment.

Antenna Maintenance team replaced two maintenance cables on antenna #7 and transferred rigging system (spider stage) to the curtain side, so they could replace some corroded and broken feedlines, vertical and horizontal radiators, burned clamps and bolts (*up to sixty horizontal wires*

were replaced). Due to high VSWR on antenna #03, the bousson chair system was placed on the screen side to replace broken vertical radiators and burned clamps. Preventive maintenance, including scraping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint, is being done on tower #18.

Power Plant technicians replaced the oil cooler on the generator #2, and did other routine preventative maintenance

HVAC technicians conducted refresher training on fire extinguishers for all station personnel. They also reinstalled all 5 buzzers and 5 smoke detectors in the TX hall. They fixed fire alarm faults on Zone 15 "ATU2", in the Medium Wave array.

The remote toilet and its components were removed from the outer gate guardhouse and the guard's bathroom was rebuilt by installing new plumbing system and water reservoir.

The B&G Team supported other sections in accomplishing their scheduled and unscheduled tasks and took an active part to keep the station premises neat and presentable.

The new B&G services and Custodial services contracts were awarded this month. The new contracts will begin on August 1st.

On June 11-15, Three people from ESO Accra arrived to install cipher-locks on doors that secured areas where there would be OpenNet equipment or terminals.

On June 21st, the US Embassy Libreville hosted the US Independence Day reception in Sao Tome.

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

Station operations for June were routine, and Station Availability for the month was 99.95% with 3,258 scheduled broadcast hours.

During July 24-28, Station hosted a FSN Supervisory Skills workshop in Udorn. Instructors, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Embassy Regional Employee Development Center (REDC) conducted the workshop.

Philippine Transmitting Station, Management Secretary, (b) (6) visited Udorn site for consultation with station Admin Staff, June 23-26.

In conjunction with HQ, Udorn Station repositioned a C-band linear polarized TVRO system to tune and downlink a test signal on MeasSat-3. Spectrum analyzer plots, C/N readings and feed content were sent back to Washington DC for analysis.

USAGM's Asiasat-7 C-band broadcast programming signal was terminated on June 11, 2019. These programs will now be downloaded from a new feed established on Intelsat-17 and a backup feed on Measat-3.

Per Operational Memo A-043, program changes on UDO-2 was implemented during the month.

During the month, the Station received 10 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSL cards have been sent, as requested.

MARATHON TRANSMITTING STATION: The Marathon Transmitting Station reports that in June:

More attention was given to Florida Keys Coop of load imbalance issues between June 2-June 14, 2019; total of (6) Power Disruptions with special phase monitoring placed on station feeder pole. Several issues were discovered by the Coop at Big Pine Key Substation with Iguana Lizards on transformers and across Feeder Lines.

Problems were resolved later in the month of June with imbalance of Phases with incoming Power.

MTH-A Transmitter VSWR overloads continue due to static discharge from Thunderstorm locally in the area. Transmitter Caps were inspected for failure, but nothing was found defective.

Office of Security sent 5 Boxes of replacement Camera down from Washington, DC. Some of this work will require Contractor from Miami to finish the replacement and repair of area Security Cameras.

Fencemaster's was on site from June 4-6 for replacement of West Property Fence.

ConVault /Old castle diesel tank manufacture was called for return warranty service of newly installed Fuel Gauge. Repairs made July 1, 2019 and recalibrated.

Roofing quotes/estimates are out to (2) local companies for Primary Building replacement from Republic Roofing and Keys All Area Roofing, Inc., with quotes and estimate Pending Vendors.

GatesAir manufacture of Harris 3DBX 100 MTH-A Transmitter. Station is still waiting for (2) PWA Amplifier repair modules returned.

SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of sixty shipments for the month of June. Nineteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and five shipments were designated to Embassies including Dakar, Djibouti, and Freetown. There were eleven total FedEx shipments. One import from Germany, and two bureau shipments to New York and Taiwan. The “other” shipments consisted of shipping camera equipment to India for the Urdu service and returning PESA cards to the vendor in Alabama for the NCC. Lastly, the logistics team completed sixteen deliveries from JCM to IBB and four pickups from IBB to JCM. As of 07/31/19, we have seven open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of May was 981 and a total of 379 items inventoried. The Team added 40 items to PIPS (0 were Capital Assets with a value of \$0) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$310,379.86. We also deleted 17 Items from PIPS (0 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$0) with a total acquisition value of \$20,134.71.

M&R: The program received 100% of the FY19 allotment. WDC transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund 13 programmed projects. A couple of projects for Greenville were deferred to fund the urgent need for replacement of incoming feeders. Ongoing M&R projects: Philippines – Replace Fire Alarm System project is ongoing, AECOM & Sheilla traveled to Philippines the week of July 29th for inspection & testing. Greenville Chillers Project – SBA accepted offer to use the second 8(a) contractor, Reliance as Legacy Construction proposal was unacceptable. Reliance site visit was completed on July 10th. Proposal came in on July 30th. Construction award planned for August. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires project is ongoing, the Contractor updated the schedule recently. The work to replace antenna counterweight wire ropes for five curtain antennas at the Tinian transmitting site is scheduled for Sept and Oct. Sao Tome MW Tower – CON issued a Cure Letter to the Contractor CTB in early July. CTB provided initial response in mid-July and proposed to repair the tower but is currently working with the tower design engineer to finalize the engineering details and obtaining his approval. After, the schedule will be reviewed and updated. M&R Contracting Actions: Task Order for Saipan Towers Inspection was awarded to EJC. Other procurement actions: Antenna Maintenance and Repair ID/IQ, Tinian TCI Low Band Dipole Curtain, and Task Order for Tinang TX Hall A/C.

OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST

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

Station had a 100 % availability for the month.

There were no irregularities to report for the month of July.

Safety: There were no occupational safety concerns or mishaps to report for the month of July.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Stations availability for the month of July was 99.78%. Overall transmission availability was 99.74%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC.

The recently installed 419F transmitter, GB-1, began full time programming on July 15th. Operation appear normal with good efficiency and reliability.

The other 419F transmitter, GB-2, was substituted for a normally scheduled transmitter for a short time during the re-commissioning process.

A few items were identified for follow-up but operation appears to be stable. Contractors replaced several defective transmission line poles during the month.

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

The Station has been working on obtaining the concrete plan on removal of the MW transmitter in Cape Greco, Republic of Cyprus. Two staff members, (b) (6) Andel travelled to Cyprus between July 22-24th to determine the plan of removal of good parts and other components to be salvaged/scrapped. They did a market survey and got in touch with the prospective vendors, etc. At the same time the packing and crating services solicitation was posted in FBO.

On July 31, Procurement Agent, (b) (6) retired. AmConGen FRA recruitment is under process.

On July 26th, the station received the new M5100 John Deere Tractor. This utility tractor was ordered via GSA however, the shipment from the US to the Lampertheim site was a quite a logistic adventure. The unit was delivered in good condition and we are looking forward to have the unit upgraded with a local registration.

With the assistance of the Thailand station, the Afghanistan engineering and technicians finally obtained the entry visas, to attend the FM training in Udorn Thani in August.

One of the contracting officer's warrants will expire on August 3rd therefore all required paperwork for the recertification process was forwarded to CON at the beginning of July. The process was well ahead the time in particular to support the recertification process while the station manager is on home leave and prior to station needs and prior to the fiscal year end.

The satellite group is performing a significant upgrade to the broadcast link monitoring systems MPEG4 H265 standard. The older MPEG2 systems are not capable of handling the extended video BW. New routing systems and HDTV equipment has been installed during the month. It will take some time until this project is completed and all hardware including the AXON/DUALZ monitoring is upgraded and fully converted.

At the end of the month, the administrative section was in close contact with CON to settle some open questions on procurement activities and to provide supporting documents.

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

Station operations for the month of July were executed as per routine, and the stations availability was at 98.50%, with 5,986.50 scheduled broadcast hours.

The summer season is at its peak with daily temperatures rising up to 125°F. On the 8th of July, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake hit southwest Iran. Tremors were felt as far as Kuwait City. No loss or damage to life or property was reported.

Station Manager, (b) (6) arrived from Home Leave on the 11th.

Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6) y went to Dubai on a personal trip on the 14th and returned on 23rd.

On the 21st, personnel from the Regional Security Office visited the station to look into all Safety and Security matters. They also checked whether every person at the station was in possession of the Scapehood Protection Device.

On the 22nd, the station held a sealed bid sale for the vehicles that were authorized for disposal.

Three vehicles were sold.

On the 28th USAGM Director, (b) (6) arrived in Kuwait and was scheduled to depart for Washington DC on the 1st of August.

Facilities Section:

Antenna technicians completed monthly preventive maintenance of the rotatable short-wave antenna and medium wave 7 tower antenna. Repaired Broken feed line of the antenna A2 and A3 shortwave antenna due to severe wind. Antenna crew assisted relocate and clearing hallway

satellite equipment that is turned off due to discontinuation of satellite uplinks from Kuwait. All fluorescent lamps were replaced in the administration building with LED panels as an energy saving measures. In addition, facilities staff carried out maintenance and repair of all street lights.

FM Station updates for the Month of July 2019:

Contract Awards and Renewals:

The Contract between Skyy Radio Incorporated and USAGM was awarded to continue O&M support for the FM Station in Freetown, Sierra Leone from July 1, 2019 thru February 29, 2020.

The Contract between Mast Rental Ltd and USAGM was also awarded to continue O&M support for the FM Station in Nairobi, Kenya from June 1, 2019 thru May 30, 2020.

A one month purchase order has been awarded to Nianzou Kangou Vincent to continue Broadcasting services for the FM Station in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (August 1, 2019 thru August 31 , 2019).

A one month purchase order has been awarded to Tele-diffusion De Mauritania to continue Broadcasting services for the FM Station in Mauritania (August 1, 2019 thru August 31 , 2019).

A one month purchase order has been awarded to Excaff Telecom to continue Broadcasting services for the FM Station in Dakar, Senegal (August 1, 2019 thru August 31 , 2019).

The following FM Affiliate O&M Agreements/Contracts require to be negotiated and awarded next month:

Ivory Coast

Dakar Senegal

Mauritania

Option Year 3 was awarded to Lazarus Ventures to continue broadcasting services in Accra, Ghana.

Option year 2 was awarded to Ibrahim Al Hajaj to continue broadcasting services in Iraq and other Middle East Regions.

Op Orders: The following Operational Memos were implemented during the month:

- A19-055 Kuwait 5 Rotational A5 Antenna Maintenance, KWT-5 affected
- A19-059 Kuwait Antenna Repair, KWT-1 affected
- A19-060 Kuwait Antenna Repair Correction, KWT-1 affected
- A19-061 Kuwait Antenna Repair Complete, KWT-1 affected
- A19-065 Kuwait-C Antenna Maintenance

Safety:

There were no occupational safety concerns or accidents to report for the month.

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

REKTS:

July began with Tinian lowering damaged antennas and reflectors 267H, 295M, and 280L. RRC also dismantled and removed all damaged counterweights. The damaged counterweight pieces were moved to the secondary road at end of the runway to block road for protection of station underground cable. The Contractor then staged each tower area to receive new counterweights. In between seasonal rains, a new 4160/11KVA Transformer was installed. During the last two weeks of July, we experienced a few hours of rain daily. As a result, progress in the field for much of the last half of the month has slowed.

RRC Leadership, (b) (6) and (b) (6), arrived on board REKTS July 9th for self-audit, inspection, and to welcome the new Saipan site manager (b) (6) to the team. (b) (6) arrived at the Saipan Station July 15th. (b) (6) departed July 13th, while (b) (6) remained onboard until July 26th to facilitate onboarding (b) (6) and to provide training.

On Saipan, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation continues to schedule multiple power outages weekly while ongoing repairs, recovery and mitigation efforts are being made. As a consequence, we have seen some fluctuations in Station commercial power.

The Administrative staff has done an exceptional job preparing the Station for the fiscal year end close out. This effort is on track and poised to meet or precede all established deadlines.

Tinian:

Tinian operations had 99.75% reliability during this month with 480.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 1.18 hours of program outages and eight (8) off/on events. No commercial power outage encountered this month. Transmitter related issues during remote operations attributed to 0.86 hour of outage and the remaining 0.32 hour is related to antenna control issues.

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.99% reliability during this month with 868.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts with 0.03 hour of program outage and two (2) off/on events. Four (4) commercial power outages/power fluctuations encountered this month with 0.03 hour loss time reported.

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

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Station Manager, (b) (6), traveled to Thailand from July 22nd to 27th, to attend various meetings with U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thai Government broadcast partners, and visited our transmitter sites in Rasom and Udorn.

Deputy Station Manager, (b) (6), returned on the 26th from annual leave. Facilities Supervisor, (b) (6), returned to post from R&R on the 29th, one day after his scheduled arrival, due to a weather delay in Croatia.

Station management team attended US Mission's Independence Day celebrations on July 3rd in Manila, and on July 19th in Baguio City. The annual representation meeting with local barangay officials and day care teachers was held on July 17th, at Rustica Restaurant, in Tarlac.

Station welcomed visitors: Former PTS Facilities Supervisor, currently the Station Manager of Germany Station (b) (6), on July 23rd and 31st. From Washington DC, (b) (6), PMP Chief, Network Support Branch who arrived on the 29th for fire alarm project inspection.

B&G contracts for Janitorial, Antenna Field Grass Cutting, Gardening, Transportation, Antenna Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance were extended from September 28, 2019 to March 27, 2020 in order to move the renewal cycle away from the end of the fiscal year.

TRANSMITTER

The station's overall availability for the month was 99.76%. The total scheduled program was 2,080.8 hours. Total program outage was 4.9 hours with 31 off/ons.

Majority of the broadcast outages, 50.8%, were due to transmitter related failures; 44.4% was due to program feed failures; and 4.7% for antenna related failures. Station's broadcast equipment overall availability was at 99.87 %.

PHT-3: On the 18th, replaced overheated filament supply lead of PA V1 tube; on the 30th, replaced defective control card for crowbar unit and stuck-up B1 blower as a follow-up on cause of the frequent tripping of the 4160 VAC mains breaker.

Still at month's end, working on isolation for reasons of overloads that causes to trips the 4160 VAC mains breaker.

PHT-4: Replaced directional coupler sampling board YKU-09 to correct the power-metering problem, then performed forward Power Meter calibration procedure (SOP M-4) part of the preparation for the full automation project.

PHT-6: Replaced arc damaged PA plate tune capacitor C58C type CV3A-650E/55 on the 26th.

PHT-7: On the 1st, replaced pre-driver tube type 4CX350A, due to low RF drive. On the 6th, replaced defective P5 supply contactor for Low-pressure blower as a follow-up on reported failure and the 9th, replaced defective Balun capacitor C101, type CV2A-1500E/30.

PHT-8: On the 11th, replaced (4) sluggish toggle switches for MS1, MP3, MP5 & MP8 servo motors on Motor Control module YKS-06.

PHT-9: On the 4th, replaced defective (frozen/shorted) PA plate tune capacitor C58B CV3A-650E/55. On the 5th, repaired in-use resistor bridge network YAP-04 of the Balun Servo Controller MP8 to correct positioning error on the 6-MHz band. On the 13th, replaced A10 & A15 SSM power supply board; calibrated SSM fault sensor card A5, and reflectometer module YAUY-17 as corrective action for the “Not Operate Fault”.

PHT-11: On the 17th, worked on the reported noise on carrier per TMO report, replaced PSM on slots 13, 34, 36, 37 & 47 found unlit during operation. On the 18th transmitter was shut down due to severe damage SSM power switch column #2 with 10 of the 12 switch modules were arc-damaged beyond repair. Reconditioned power column - replaced damaged fiberglass brackets, PVC tubing, and DC ground wiring and installed new SSM power switch modules. Transmitter returned to service on the 22nd, pre-tested and monitored with a clean carrier signal.

SSM system: There were thirty-two (32) power switch modules fails during the month, ten (10) of which are beyond repair removed from PHT-11. Salvaged good components for re-use.

ElecShop: During the month bench repaired the following transmitter components:

- For the SSM system, repaired total of (21) SSM power switches; (1) A5 Power Control card; (3) A6 Flash converter card; (1) A7 Ring Modulator card; (2) A8 Switch Status card; (4) A11 I/O card; (2) A13 Optical Receiver card; and (5) A15 Power Supplies cards.
- For the ABB/BBC transmitter; repaired (4) Motor Control Board YKS-06; (1) YAK-04 Power Supply module; (3) servo amplifier cards. All repaired electronic cards were installed on transmitter for in-circuit.
- Repaired and rehabilitate arc damaged 4160 VAC plate supply breaker Q5 PHT-11.

Telecommunications Unit:

The station encountered loss of MPLS on 22nd from 1600 to 1617 UTC and again on 23rd from 1631 to 2323 due to ongoing maintenance according to NCC. This affected the program feeds to and from HQ. There was also a power issue encountered at several SIS Racks on 25th from 0041 to 0130 UTC that likewise affected the Program Stream and internet connection. PTU worked with Electrical staff to resolve the issue. During this outage, the SIS Bldg UPS encountered an inverter fault, which was later on cleared by Vertiv personnel.

On July 15th, the affiliate in Baguio lost their signal lock on IS-9 forcing them to temporarily download VOA programs from the internet. The signal was later re-established by reconfiguring the receiver but the same problem re-occurred on 25th. PTU is now coordinating with the Country Representative to visit the site.

Reset the FXO Gateway router ports to correct reports that some station's public phone lines were unreachable at some point as noticed by some LES.

On the 25th, it was noticed that VC15 and VC17 programs were already removed from our transport stream. This is being verified with the NCC and an updated schedule has already been requested.

Travel:

Messrs. (b) (6) and (b) (6) travelled to Taiwan on the 31st to support an affiliate in re-orienting their dish to Intelsat 19.

FACILITIES

Backup HVAC System for Transmitter Hall: Installation of 3-TR Carrier Inverter outdoor Air Conditioning units for the transmitter hall has been completed.

2.5 Meters USAGM/PTS Service Monitoring Satellite Dish: Mounting of two 6" diameter G.I pipe satellite dish post utilizing the abandoned 10'x10' concrete pad originally used by the DOD satellites has been completed.

PNP Renovation Project: 276 sq. meters concrete road and vehicle carport pavement has been completed.

Transmission Post Guy Wire Anchor: Two transmission line post guy cable support were repaired and restored due to corrosion.

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

STTS broadcast operations were routine in July. Transmitter availability was 99.92%. The Transmitter plant had a total of 2828 program broadcast hours, with 2.00 hours of program outage and 11 off/ons. No Operational Memos were received.

July 10th, the PA tube of SAO-04 was replaced due to low emissions. The tube serial number 635632 lasted 1,831 anode hours.

July 18, during the PM on SAO-04 technicians replaced a bad driver tube.

July 25th, SAO-5 suddenly shut down on the morning broadcast due to excessive arcing in the cabinets of Modulator and PA. Several components have been burned, including the PDM printed board. Station requested the cancelation of broadcast from 0400 to 0500 MO-FR as a way to have enough time to perform corrective maintenance and recover transmitter from damage. Manager's note: as of this writing (8/8) the transmitter is still down. There are cooling components burned, we are attempting to manufacture. There is no replacement for the PDM card, another perhaps insurmountable challenge on this ancient transmitter. The burned components on the antenna (see below) may have been the cause or the effect of the transmitter failure.

July 29th, during annual preventive maintenance on SAO-A technicians found a defective vacuum capacitor CV2C 1500EB/30. The capacitor was replaced with new one from stock.

During this period, the Power Plant team spent most of the time conducting all scheduled tasks and routine maintenance, and so did other sections in a safe environment. In some way, some unscheduled tasks came up as follows:

VSWR was high on antenna #9 Tropical B and the bousson chair system was put in place, so the Antenna Maintenance technicians could replace six jumper wires and burned clamps. The Riggers also replaced sixteen corroded feedlines, four horizontal radiators and some burned clamps and bolts on curtain side of the antenna #07 and the spider system is ready to be removed; The Tower Maintenance Technicians continue performing preventive maintenance on tower #18 (scrapping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint).

The HVAC technicians installed new water heater in residence # 1, replaced pump pressure gauge on R/O#2, replaced all SCBA batteries in the transducer module, installed new A/C unit in Morganti building (Janitor's room), installed lavatory in Guard house post 2 and a respirator on septic tank. They also removed the evaporator of the shift bus CD-017-677 and fixed the hole and reinstalled and recharged it. The HVAC technicians installed new single type A/C in the canteen at the Morganti building, fixed the holes on CU1 condenser coil (TAB kitchen) and recharged it, disassembled all electrical components (lamps fixtures, cable, wires) at the Morganti lunchroom.

The B&G Team as usual gave a hand to other sections accomplishing their scheduled and unscheduled tasks and take an active part to keep the Station area neat and presentable.

No power outage occurred this month.

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

Station operations for July were routine, and Station Availability for the month was 99.81% with 3,361.75 scheduled broadcast hours.

Station Manager, Michael Hardegen retired on July 3st. We wish him and family a happy retirement.

On July 24, T/EOS Director, (b) (6) and Thailand Deputy Manager, (b) (6) accompanied by (b) (6) and (b) (6), visited the Public Relations Department (PRD) Headquarters to meet and greet the Director General of the PRD (b) (6). In the afternoon the USAGM team met (b) (6), Director of Public Diplomacy Information Division, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the month, the Station received 17 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSLs cards were sent, as requested.

MARATHON TRANSMITTING STATION: The Marathon Transmitting Station reports that in July:

More attention was given to Florida Keys Coop of load imbalance issues between June 2-June 14, 2019; total of (6) Power Disruptions with special phase monitoring place on station feeder pole. Several issues was discovered by the Coop at Big Pine Key Substation with Iguana Lizards on transformers and across Feeder Lines.

Problems were resolved later in the month of June with imbalance of Phases with incoming Power.

MTH-A Transmitter VSWR overloads continue due to static discharge from Thunderstorm locally in the area. Transmitter Caps was inspected for failure, but nothing was found defective.

Office of Security sent 5 Boxes of replacement Camera down from Washington, DC. Some of this work will require Contractor from Miami to finish the replacement and repair of area Security Cameras.

Fencemaster's was on site from June 4-6 for replacement of West Property Fence.

ConVault /Old castle diesel tank manufacture was called for return warranty service of newly installed Fuel Gauge. Repairs made July 1, 2019 and recalibrated.

Roofing quotes/estimates are out to (2) local companies for Primary Building replacement from Republic Roofing and Keys all Area Roofing, Inc., with quotes and estimate Pending Vendors.

GatesAir manufacture of Harris 3DBX 100 MTH-A Transmitter. Station is still waiting for (2) PWA Amplifier repairs modules returned.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of forty-five shipments for the month of August. Sixteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and eight shipments were designated to Embassies including Johannesburg and Kabul. There were five total FedEx shipments and three bureau shipments to Marathon, London, and Taiwan. The “other” shipments consisted of a customs duty tax of a previous Taiwan shipment, camera equipment from the Deewa service going to various stringers in the US, the delivery of new Cisco equipment to the new data center in Ashburn. A shipment of personal items to a former employee, and a shipment of LNBs going to Cameroon. Lastly, the logistics team completed five deliveries from JCM to IBB and one pickup from IBB to JCM. As of 08/30/19, we have twenty-five open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team’s total transactions in PIPS for the month of August was 1712 and a total of 923 items inventoried. The Team added 70 items to PIPS (2 were Capital Assets with a value of \$69,820.00) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$2,014,751.86. We also deleted 23 Items from PIPS (4 of the items was a Capital Asset with a value of \$158,726.00) with a total acquisition value of \$200,655.50.
- A member of the logistics team attended the 2019 Energy Exchange. The Energy Exchange engages with the wider federal energy management community, including federal energy management, private sector companies, energy service companies and utilities. The goal is to integrate best practices and lessons learned with a focus on continuous improvement at the federal agency level and sharing “what works” across the energy community.

M&R: WDC transferred M&R funds to the transmitting stations to fund the programmed self-projects and the majority of the projects have been awarded. Updates on HQ M&R projects: (1) Greenville, replace Chillers (M&R 1618): Contracts is finalizing the 8a sole source award to Reliance Construction by end of FY19. The design build kick off meeting will be scheduled after award. (2) Philippines Inspect Antenna Systems Phase 1: Task order sent to Contracts for EJC pricing. Task order is to conduct a comprehensive visual inspection and to evaluate structural conditions for the SW antennas and antenna supporting towers. (3) Philippines Replace Fire Alarm System Phase 1(M&R 1624): The Contractor is finalizing punch list, final testing and commissioning. AECOM and Victor will travel to Philippines to close out Phase 1 in October.

Period of performance completion date is November 2019. (4) São Tomé MW Tower: CON is drafting a show cause notice as CTB has not met the requirements of the cure letter. This is the last attempt to give CTB an opportunity to provide appropriate documentation for the proposed tower repair. (5) Sao Tome Safety Climb Training (Station Funded): The station awarded the safety climb training contract. Richard will coordinate with all parties and oversee both trainings to improve safety for the high-risk antenna and tower operation. The limited M&R allotment continues to be a challenge as the network ages, which limits our ability to maintain a robust network and increase risk and probability of broadcast interruptions. Some of the equipment is close to reaching the end of its useful life and repairs will no longer be an option.

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

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

As the dusk of winter starts to descend on Botswana, hope for rain is highly anticipated. The station has seen a noticeable decrease in water from the on-site well. The underground river plays a significant role in the reduction on city water usage.

Work continues in the antenna field with the installation of anchor blocks at the base of each shortwave antenna tower. The anchor blocks will be used by the riggers to hold pulleys during the use of the winch. The contract was awarded locally.

Progress seems to be happening with the signature of the land lease amendment. Members of the Ngwato land board paid the station a visit and we explained why signing the already formulated 2016 amendment was more desirable than creating a new land lease agreement. The land board delegation understood and made the required minor changes to the existing 2016 land lease amendment. The minor change document is currently with the GC office for review and approval.

On the 09th the Station Manager, (b) (6) arrived Post from training and Annual Leave in the States.

On the 13th the station held its wellness presentation on Anger Management.

On the 20th, the station hosted a representative from Botsogo PTY to give a presentation on the new Medical Insurance services. Botsogo is a new company that the Embassy engaged on the medical insurance of the local employees. Employees transitioned from BOMAID (former company) to Botsogo on September 1st.

The Station Manager traveled to Embassy Gaborone to have one-on-one with the Ambassador (b) (6) on the 21st.

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

The E. R. Murrow Transmitting Station availability for the month of August was 99.78%. Overall transmission availability was 99.78%, which includes loss of program feed from WDC.

Operation were normal although quite busy with several projects underway.

The technical staff continues to gather data on the reliability and stability of recently installed GB-2. Operation looks very good so far.

Work continues on the rebuild and installation of GB-3. The technical staff fabricated several new fiber optic cables to replace the ones that were too short for our installation.

Work continues to complete the custom balun interface connecting GB-9 to the station switch bay.

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

The Station Manager, (b) (6) travelled to Thailand on August 17-30, 2019 for Meeting with USAGM Affiliates and representatives from Tajikistan, Afghanistan and for commissioning of TCI slew controller replacement.

On August 29th, (b) (6) travelled to Thailand for the installation of replacement for TCI slew controller and FM training.

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

Station's operations for August were routine, and station availability was 99.93%, with 6,115.50 scheduled broadcast hours.

The first half of the month was quiet and uneventful as the Mission prepared to observe Eid Al-Adha from 9-13 August and enjoy a five day weekend; However, the pace picked up after the long holiday. Numerous housekeeping projects kicked off in the second half of the month as we prepared for the end of FY19. The Station executed two small contracts for the removal of concrete pads near the inner fence line and removed trees and scrub-brush that hindered LGF visibility of the inner fence line. Another minor contract was executed to refurbish several rooms. The walls for the kitchen were removed after determining there was a water leak behind them. The leak was a long-standing issue which allowed black mold to grow and ruin several areas of the kitchen cabinets. Unfortunately, the existing cabinets are not salvageable, and an M&R request was submitted to TSI for their replacement.

The Station continues experimenting with running TX operations unstaffed with mixed results. It seems the physical condition of the 419F's is not suitable to run without an operator present at the Station to take immediate action when numerous tuning difficulties are encountered. The countless problems encountered would seem to suggest our preventive maintenance program is not functioning at a desired or needed level.

Visitors:

On the 4th of August, (b) (6), Team Lead/Contracting Officer, arrived from Washington DC and departed on the 9th.

Embassy's TDYer RSO, (b) (6), visited the station on the 19th.

On the 20th and 21st, (b) (6), HRO and (b) (6), Admin Assistant, visited the station to have individual meetings with all staff.

On the 26th, the RSO again visited the station to introduce the newly appointed RSO as well as to complete the installation of Trobigard injectors first aid boxes and stacking. Repairs were done to the security doors, performed scheduled cashier's safe password reset, and conducted a duck-n-cover drill. The SelecTone system proved operational.

Facilities Section:

Antenna technicians completed monthly preventive maintenance of the rotatable Short-wave antenna, Mediumwave 7 tower antenna, and KWT-D antenna. During these maintenances replaced photocells of the tower lights. Antenna technicians also assisted in the fault isolation process of the AOR signal failures during night time. We also, supported office refurbishes works and relocation of office furniture due to refurbishing work.

FM Station updates for the Month of July 2019:

Contract Awards and Renewals:

1. A two-month purchase order was awarded to (b) (6) and a two-month purchase order to CIE to cover commercial power costs to continue Broadcasting services for the FM Station in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (September 1, 2019 thru October 31, 2019).
2. A two-month month purchase order has also awarded to Tele-diffusion De Mauritania to continue broadcasting services for the FM Station in (September 1, 2019 thru October 31, 2019).
3. A two-month purchase order has also awarded to Excaff Telecom to continue Broadcasting services for the FM Station in Dakar, Senegal (September 1, 2019 thru October 31, 2019).
4. The following FM Affiliate O&M Agreements/Contracts require to be negotiated and awarded :
 - a) Ivory Coast
 - b) Dakar Senegal
 - c) Mauritania
 - d) Hargeisa, Somaliland
5. A 35 days purchase order is awarded to Service Tech Ford to maintain the split A/C units in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
6. Funds have been obligated to The American Embassy in Morocco to cover the lease payments for the 7 FM locations in Morocco (09/30/2019 - 03/30/2020) for six months.

Op Orders: The following Operational Memos were implemented during the month:

A19-055 Kuwait 5 Rotational A5 Antenna Maintenance, KWT-5 affected

A19-059 Kuwait Antenna Repair, KWT-1 affected

A19-060 Kuwait Antenna Repair Correction, KWT-1 affected

Safety:

There were no occupational safety concerns or accidents to report for the month.

Station Availability:

System availability for August was 99.79%

Station availability for August was 99.93%

The total scheduled program was 6,115.50 hours

Total program outages were 12.70 hours

Total number of off/on for the month was 7

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

REKTS:

USAGM Resident Engineer, (b) (6), along with O&M Contract staff joined Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair program (VALOR) and the Mayor's Office on Tinian for the program kickoff. Through this program, volunteers rebuild, repair, or construct homes for Super Typhoon Yutu Survivors. The program is backed by 100% volunteer labor and material is provided by FEMA. The initial program kickoff on Saturday August 24th resulting in the total replacement of roof systems at 4 residences.

Recovery efforts on the Station continue through gaps in monsoonal rains. We discovered a ceased sheave while lowering of 280L. The sheave was badly corroded and it was determined that replacement would be the better long term solution vice trying to break it free. A plan was put together to lower the 600lb sheave assembly and frame to the ground for replacement. A new sheave was installed on the frame and subsequently raised for reinstallation. This depot level repair has been a confidence builder for our staff with regard to out of the norm recovery repairs. All curtain footings for 270M were repaired in conjunction with scheduled down time for tower evaluations.

(b) (6) arrived on Saipan 23rd of August for continuation of tower survey work for both Saipan and Tinian Sites. (b) (6) and (b) (6) of Tower Engineering Company (TEC), subcontractor for USAGM, arrived on Saipan 25th August to assist Mr. Cai on field and tower survey work. (b) (6) arrived onboard 27th August for recovery progress validation and site visit. On the 22nd August, Contract Program Manager (b) (6)

With the fiscal year end fast approaching, the Administrative Staff have worked diligently to ensure self-imposed goals are on track to precede agency close-out requirements.

Tinian:

Tinian operations had 99.83% reliability during this month with 480.50 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.83 hour of program outages and 11 off/on events. No commercial power outage encountered this month. Transmitter related issues attributed to 0.46 hour of outage and the remaining 0.37 hour is due to antenna related issues.

Saipan:

Saipan operations had 99.93% reliability during this month with 868.00 hours of scheduled broadcasts, 0.65 hour of program outage and four (4) off/on events. Transmitter related issues attributed to 0.65 hour of outage. Five (5) commercial power outages/fluctuations encountered this month with no loss time.

IBB Administration:

(b) (6) traveled to Tinian Station August 9th, 20th, 23rd, 27th, and 29th for recovery efforts, O&M Contract surveillance, and other administrative duties.

RRC Manning:

39 Total: Saipan: 16, Tinian: 23

(b) (6)

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

Station Manager, (b) (6), traveled to CNMI on August 27th, for a routine oversight and to close-out FY2019.

Station had two visitors for the month. (b) (6), Resident Engineer of CNMI visited the station on the 12th for consultation with Tinang operations and familiarization for the PTS/CNMI procurement control processes. (b) (6) of Indonesia affiliate country representative arrived on the 22nd for three days of IS19 and MEASAT training.

The representation meeting with Tarlac Municipal Mayors of Capas and Concepcion was held on August 14, at the Station's canteen.

A year after the closure of Poro site, the Lease Termination Agreement with Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has reached its finality on August 31st.

(b) (6), Facilities Supervisor, released the property to (b) (6) from BCDA legal department. They performed final walk through and BCDA accepted the property without any reservations. The RSO employees transferred physical security to PPMC at 23:59 on Saturday the 31st.

The Station Quarterly Fire and Safety inspection were completed in Facilities Plant on August 5 and Transmitter Plant on August 15th.

TRANSMITTER:

The station's overall availability for the month was 99.79%. The total scheduled program was 2,054.7 hours. Total program outage was 4.3 hours and 40 off/on. Majority of the broadcast outage (54.1%) caused by program feed failures; 26.1% on transmitter related failures and 19.8% on antenna related failures, and 0% for power-related. Station's broadcast equipment overall availability was at 99.90 %.

Significant PM made this month as follows:

PHT-1: Replaced rubber gasket of swing valve to correct bursting of water at the main tank and PA V2 tube socket due to overheated filament finger contacts on the 27th.

PHT-2: Replaced twice during the month - bleeder resistors R1117A-C and resistors R1118A-C of the 7.5/15 KV power supply bank, one (1) arc puncture oil type filter capacitor on the 7.5 KV power supply bank.

PHT-3: Frequent tripping of 4160 VAC mains supply breaker due to DC overloads – found two (2) porcelain insulator crack on the 7.5/15 KVDC power supply bank that shorting to ground. Replaced all-porcelain insulator. On the 2nd, replaced overheated PA V1 tube filament transformer.

PHT-7: On the 12th, completed the replacement of the PA tube filament transformer that fails on the 10th. Replaced arc damaged fiberglass shaft for the harmonic filter capacitor C60 on the 9th.

PHT-9: On the 12th, Balun capacitor C101 type CV2A-1500E/30 failed – frozen and shorted.

PHT-10: On the 15th, replaced PA driver tube type 4CX5,000A noted with low emission.

Replaced overheated PA grid leak resistors R33A-C on the 25th and 28th – fabricated replacement of lower (ground side) mounting of the resistors for stable clamping and easy to Mount on chassis.

PHT-12: On the 1st, replaced pre-driver tube type 4CX350A, due to low RF drive. On the 13th, 13th, installed new PA tube type CQS-200-3 for the acceptance test.

Electronics shop: Completed assembly and testing of three (3) SSM Power switch Module utilizing salvaged parts from PHT-11. Repaired two (2)-each MP6 servo amplifier, three (3) ERNI Impulse generator cards and one (1) power supply card for the BBC transmitters.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

On the 11th, Station encountered loss of MPLS signal at 0709 UTC. Data connection restored at 0850 UTC while the MPLS stream restored at 1436 UTC.

On the 15th, loss of internet connection was noted from 1241 to 1345 UTC caused by service provider problem at Washington DC. MPLS signal was also down on the 17th from 0830 to 0941 UTC due to undetermined cause.

On the 8th, the station received a query from NCC regarding the Uplink and Downlink program return streams on the DCM. Replied on the query, requested a recommendation from Global Network/GGibbs on the removal of the said streams from the DCM, advised to retain the streams for future use.

In preparation for the planned MPLS circuit termination, station procured a new 100-Mbps circuit that will eventually carry all data and program traffic to and from Washington DC. The local provider has already installed the Demarcation device at the site.

Coordination with Global Network regarding the planned migration and contents of the circuit is also underway.

Regarding the issue encountered by the Baguio affiliate site in July 2019, (b) (6) and (b) (6) went to the site on August 15-16 to troubleshoot the Intelsat 19 signal reception problem. Re-established the signal after replacing the LNB but the issue recurred after a few days. As a solution to the problem, recommended to relocate the dish due to obstruction and to replace antenna parts and cables – forwarded the recommendations to the country representative.

Lastly, the station received and installed two wireless access points from Global Network/TSmith and one replacement hard drive for the storage server sent by Washington DC/HChen.

Training: (b) (6) and (b) (6) attended Network+ Training on the 19th to 23rd, while Lawrence Chiu and (b) (6) attended the same training on the 26th to 30th.

FACILITIES:

Trane Air Condition Chiller: The contractor started installation of the chiller that was shipped from Tinian. The old unit has been removed and new unit has been put in place. The representative from Trane Philippines will be performing testing next week.

Installation of new jack screw for the 11.5 meters satellite dish has been completed.

Training: Two electricians attended Electrical System Protection and Coordination training.

Backup HVAC System for Transmitter Hall: Installation of 3-TR Carrier Inverter outdoor Air Conditioning units for the transmitter hall has been completed.

2.5 Meters USAGM/PTS Service Monitoring Satellite Dish: Mounting of two 6" diameter G.I pipe satellite dish post utilizing the abandoned 10'x10' concrete pad originally used by the DOD satellites has been completed.

PNP Renovation Project: 276 sq. meters concrete road and vehicle carport pavement has been completed.

Transmission Post Guy Wire Anchor: Two transmission line post guy cable support were repaired and restored due to corrosion.

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

MANAGER'S NARRATIVE

Operations at Sao Tome Transmitting Station were routine this month. The Station's broadcast availability was 99.99 %. Program outages totaled .30 hours with 9 off/ons. Program broadcast hours totaled 2798. No Operational Memos were received.

August 15th, the solid state broadband amplifier of SAO-2 failed during the tune up at 1500-hour broadcast. The very low output level prevented the sequence control from stepping the transmitter power up. Eighteen minutes of Hausa programming was lost.

Transmitter SAO-5 is still down. The cooling pipe system, Directional coupler, Coaxial line and some other parts were already repaired. Corrective maintenance to recover the transmitter from damage continues. Extensive smoke contamination of the coaxial transmission line is evident.

During this period, the Power Plant team spent most of the time conducting all scheduled tasks and routine maintenance, and so did other sections. Some unscheduled tasks came up as follows:

The Power Plant technicians cleaned the radiator fins on all the generators, and replaced the Smart Oil Pump on the generator #2.

The Antenna technicians completed refurbishment of screen and curtain side of the antenna #07 where they replaced vertical drop wires, feedlines, vertical and horizontal radiator assemblies, spliced some bad wires, greased, and fabricated some elements. They also set up the Spider System on antenna #12 for replacement of some broken and corroded vertical wires, wire support clamps and bolts (on screen side). Preventive maintenance was performed on tower #08 (scraping, removing rust, and priming with secondary paint).

The Antenna technicians also found a fault on field switch #02 for antennas #03 and #04, which prevented the Transmitter technicians from connecting with antenna #04. The malfunction was overcome by replacing burned fuse JJS 30amps 230V on a panel board in the matrix room.

The HVAC technicians found a malfunction on the chiller “no cool load”. The fault was permanently repaired by replacing the return liquid sensor. They have also installed new Marvair Thermostat which controls the north Marvair A/C at the warehouse.

The B&G team assisted other sections, as usual, in accomplishing their scheduled and unscheduled tasks and take an active part to keep the Station area neat and presentable.

No power outage occurred this month.

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

Station operations for August were routine with 3,382.75 scheduled broadcast hours and the Station Availability for the month was 99.76 %.

Udon Transmitting Station hosted an FM Broadcasting and Troubleshooting training course for Operators and Field technicians from Afghanistan, Djibouti, and the Philippines. A total of 17 technicians attended the training provided by GatesAir on their FAX 1kw and ZX 1000 Transmitters. Several of the Thailand Transmitter Techs also attended the course.

Germany Station Manager, (b) (6) and TX plant Supervisor, (b) (6) visited Udon site on August 25-28.

During the annual Thailand National Science Week, held this year the week of August 19, 2019, a total of 468 students from five local schools, visited Udon Transmitting Station. These are some of the very same schools that USAGM provides grants to each year, to encourage study in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.

During the month, the Station received 19 letters with reception reports from listeners. QSLs cards were sent, as requested.

MARATHON TRANSMITTING STATION: The Marathon Transmitting Station reports that in August:

From August 26th through Sept 3rd, 2019 Hurricane Dorian came in the cross hairs of the Florida Keys, which affected Marathon Station Operation's for that period of time. Many hours of preparation and planning were included for Hurricane Dorian's arrival. Marathon's Storm planning was patterned after the US Coast Guard's Loran Station Operations Guide for SET COR (Condition of Readiness) Emergency Plans.

NETWORK SUPPORT BRANCH (T/EOS/N):

Property Management, Logistics & Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) Activities:

- The Logistics Team has provided oversight of sixty-five shipments for the month of September. Thirteen shipments were designated to our transmitting stations and eighteen shipments were designated to Embassies including Kigali, New Delhi, Liberia, and Kabul. There were eight total FedEx shipments two imports from Sao Tome, and four bureau shipments to Marathon, Bangkok, and New York. The "other" shipments consisted of a customs duty tax of a previous Taiwan shipment, shipping personal items to two former employees of VOA, and shipping an award plaque through the state department to the RFE/RL in Prague. Lastly, the logistics team completed fifteen deliveries from JCM to IBB and one pickup from IBB to JCM. As of 09/30/19, we have twenty-two open requisitions pending shipment to their location.
- The Property Management Team's total transactions in PIPS for the month of September was 656 and a total of 264 items inventoried. The Team added 13 items to PIPS (none were Capital Assets) with a total Acquisition Cost of \$50,190.87. We also deleted 38 Items from PIPS (12 of the items were a Capital Asset with a value of \$6,268,269.92) with a total acquisition value of \$6,332,436.50.
- The contract for new asset management system eQuip was awarded to AssestWorks. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2019.
- A task order was processed for AllTransPack, Inc. (ATP) logistics contractor to pack and ship our transmitter located in Cape Greco site, Cyprus. We had a conference call with Germany on October 2, 2019 to coordinate and go over the project schedule. German

technicians will be on site from October 7 to early November disconnecting the transmitter. ATP will confirm site survey visit the week of October 21 by Monday, October 7.

M&R: The Office of Contracts was able to award the reminding M&R procurement actions. As follows, details of M&R activities and procurements. Ongoing M&R projects: Greenville, replace Chillers (M&R 1618): Contracts awarded the design build project to Reliance Construction. The kick off meeting will be scheduled early FY20. Philippines Inspect Antenna Systems Phase 1: CON issued the task order to EJC on 9/27. Task order is to conduct a comprehensive visual inspection and to evaluate structural conditions for the SW antennas and antenna supporting towers. Philippines – Install 2.25 MW Generator: Task order was awarded to AECOM. Task order is to provide a study of options for a new emergency system. CNMI – Replace Antenna Rigging & Guy Wires (M&R 1420): The work to replace antenna counterweight wire ropes for five curtain antennas at the Tinian transmitting site is scheduled for December. São Tomé MW Tower: On 9/27, the Contractor CTB responded to Show Cause notice by providing us with a tower repair plan that was approved by the tower design engineer. The plan appears acceptable. (b) (6) sent his review comments to CON on the same day. Sao Tome Safety Climb Training (Station Funded): The station awarded the safety climb training contract. Richard will coordinate with all parties and oversee both trainings to improve safety for the high-risk antenna and tower operation. Antenna Maintenance IDIQ Contract: CON provided OGC review comments on 8/29. OGC advised to follow local laws but not higher than U.S. EPA standards unless our Country-to-Country agreements specifically require doing so.

FY20 M&R Plan: Submissions have been reviewed and a draft plan has been developed. However, some clarifications are needed from the stations. Once we received clarifications, the next step is identifying projects to be funded.