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

March 2, 2010

RE: FOIA Reference No.: 10-005

This letter is an acknowledgment to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 8, 2009, to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) for the following document. Your request was received by this office on November 16, 2009. In your request, you ask for:

“a copy of each report produced for Congress by the Board during the past five (5) years, and which are not posted on the BBG public internet website.”

The documents responsive to your request are enclosed.

The agency sent you a letter dated February 19, 2010 requesting a payment of \$26.25 for duplicating the requested document. We received two checks from you; check #890 for \$26.25 received on February 25, 2010 and check #895 for \$26.25 received on March 1, 2010, both made payable to the U.S. Treasury. The total number of pages did not exceed 100, therefore, you will not be charged a duplication fee and your checks are being returned. There is no fee for FOIA services in this instance in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(i).

Sincerely,

Martha A. Diaz-Ortiz
FOIA and Privacy Act Officer

ENCLOSED: TWO CHECKS



Broadcasting Board of Governors

Report on Alhurra Television Coverage and Audience Research

Summary

The Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) launched two 24/7 TV channels (Alhurra and Alhurra Iraq) in FY 2004. Alhurra began broadcasting on February 14, 2004. The channel is distributed to 22 countries via Arabsat (both digital and analog) and Nilesat, the same satellites used by all major regional Arabic channels. Alhurra Iraq began broadcasting on April 27, 2004. It is distributed to Iraq via the Arabsat (digital) and Nilesat (digital) satellites as well as terrestrial transmitters in Baghdad (Channel 12) and Basra (Channel 3).

The first complete set of audience surveys to include Alhurra was conducted in August 2004, and the most recent set of surveys took place in May-June 2005. In that time, Alhurra has achieved significant improvement in audience viewership and confidence. The research was conducted by independent research organizations under the oversight of the Intermedia Survey Institute, the BBG's general research contractor. The audience research conducted in June 2005 indicates that Alhurra has captured a significant share of the market. The audience for Alhurra broadcasts rose by more than 10% compared with the August 2004 results including especially large increases in Lebanon (an increase of 128%), Egypt (72%), UAE (52%) and Morocco (51%). Equally noteworthy is the increase in the audience's confidence in Alhurra's credibility. Alhurra's credibility rating jumped more than 20 percentage points in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon between August 2004 and June 2005.

The research indicates that Alhurra and Alhurra Iraq are building an audience and effectively reaching the people in the region. The Middle East press has also begun to recognize the quality of Alhurra programming and the reliability of its news. When Alhurra was launched, the initial response from the press in the Middle East was relatively negative due in large part to Alhurra's federal funding. Since the station has been on the air, however, increasing numbers of press outlets have recognized the reliability of the news on Alhurra and the impact the channels have had on other media in the Middle East. Samples of these comments are included in the last section of this report.

Television Audience in the Middle East Region

To put the audience research results in context, the chart below lists Alhurra's and Alhurra Iraq's potential audience in the Middle East. The chart lists the 22 countries to which Alhurra broadcasts and the estimated number of adults living in satellite television households in each of these countries. (There are additional Arabic speaking populations in Turkey, Iran, Israel, and Cyprus who are not included below.)

POTENTIAL SATELLITE TV AUDIENCES IN THE ARAB WORLD

COUNTRY	TOTAL POPULATION (15+)	SATELLITE TV POPULATION (15+)
ALGERIA	21,318,000	17,054,400
BAHRAIN	504,000	473,760
CHAD	5,044,000	unknown
DJIBOUTI	399,000	119,700
EGYPT	46,976,000	7,046,400
IRAQ	15,022,000	15,022,000
JORDAN	3,472,000	2,395,680
KUWAIT	1,850,000	1,424,500
LEBANON	3,240,000	2,883,600
LIBYA	3,640,000	<i>2,912,000¹</i>
MAURITANIA	1,767,000	unknown
MOROCCO	21,114,000	9,712,440
OMAN	1,782,000	1,425,600
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	2,052,000	<i>1,436,400</i>
QATAR	518,000	492,100
SAUDI ARABIA	15,060,000	13,554,000
SOMALIA	4,730,000	unknown
SUDAN	21,505,000	1,075,250
SYRIA	10,080,000	8,640,000
TUNISIA	7,200,000	5,328,000
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3,108,000	2,983,680
YEMEN	10,040,000	<i>2,080,000</i>

Audience Research for Alhurra: A Summary

Overall audience size:

As with the other BBG broadcasters, the basic audience measure used for Alhurra is the percentage of adults (15 and older) who have watched the station at least once in the course of the previous week. Based on the latest available survey data, the weekly audience for Alhurra is estimated at 21.3 million.

¹ Figures shown in italics are estimate based on extrapolations from neighboring countries.

This figure is based on surveys conducted in 12 countries that represent roughly 75% of the adult population of the Arab world. It can reasonably be assumed that additional viewers exist in countries that have not yet been surveyed, so the actual audiences are almost certainly higher than these figures indicate.

Viewing rates, expressed in percentage terms, as well as audience estimates for individual countries, are contained in the Appendix A. Weekly viewing rates for Alhurra have generally ranged from 20% to 30% of individuals living in satellite households.

Comparisons with other international broadcasters:

Alhurra went on the air 18 months ago in one of the most competitive television environments in the world, with over 100 satellite channels vying for viewers' attention. In this short time, Alhurra has established itself with a significant share of the market. Based on the most recent available data, Alhurra's total weekly audience among adults (15+) is roughly 30% as large as that of Al Jazeera, 36% as large as that of MBC, and 48% as large as the audience for Al Arabia – the top three satellite stations in the region.²

Trends:

In the short time that it has been on the air, Alhurra has seen significant audience increases. Between August 2004 (the first complete set of surveys to include Alhurra) and June 2005, the audience for Alhurra broadcasts rose by more than 10% including especially large increases in Lebanon (an increase of 128%), Egypt (72%), UAE (52%) and Morocco (51%). Earlier data based on telephone surveys of satellite households in key Arab cities showed an increase of nearly 50% from Alhurra's inception (April 2004) to its first year anniversary (April 2005).³

Audience Profile:

Alhurra's audience is broadly reflective of the target population, and its demographics are similar to those of the other major satellite television broadcasters in the region.

Alhurra and the News:

Alhurra viewers have a keen interest in its news. When asked what kind of programs they were interested in watching on Alhurra, 77% indicated that they were "very" or "somewhat" interested in watching the news – a level of interest far higher than for any other category of programming. ("Health and medicine" ranked second at 53%). Moreover, Alhurra viewers expressed high levels of confidence in the reliability of the news: 77% of weekly Alhurra viewers across the countries studied to date consider the news to be "very" or "somewhat" credible.⁴ There are signs as well that viewer's trust in Alhurra is increasing. Between August, 2004 and June, 2005, Alhurra's credibility rating jumped more than 20 percentage points in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.

² Based on aggregated survey data from Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE, Syria, Algeria, and Iraq.

³ Surveys conducted by IPSOS-STAT, Beirut.

⁴ Based on responses to the following question: "I would like to ask your opinion of the reliability of the news and information you have seen on different television stations. Use a number from 1 up to 5, with 1 meaning very unreliable and 5 meaning very reliable. From what you know, how reliable is the news and information you can hear on"

Public Response to Alhurra

At the time Alhurra first launched, it was “greeted” with skepticism by many in the Arab world, primarily because it is funded by the U.S. government. Many early attacks on the channel in the press were not based on the content of the channel, but rather on opposition to U.S. policies in the region.

As viewers and critics were able to watch the channel and judge the quality of its programming and the reliability of its news, there has been increasingly positive reaction to Alhurra. Below are excerpts from the Arab press, (the majority are Pan-Arab and reach the entire region) as translated from the Arabic:

“Most Arab satellite channels have become a copy of Alhurra channel, and we are not exaggerating if we say that the amount of freedom in Alhurra is greater than in its Arab counterparts”.

Abdelbary Atwan, Al-Quds Al-Arabi, March 17, 2005

“The appearance of Saudi Author Nadeen Al-Badeer on the Al-Majles show on the Alhurra channel has raised a widespread debate in the Saudi cultural circles since last Monday.... she used Al-Hurriya [Freedom] platform provided by Alhurra in an objective setting that lacks any motive or bias”

Ahmad Adnan, Elapf .com, January 3, 2005

“The “Very Close” show was based on balancing between the different points of views, and distributing equal airtime between questions and testimonies, where the host of the show played the devil’s advocate with both parties. This episode on Alhurra TV was well worth watching, and it has proved that it is the programs that make the satellite televisions and not the other way around, and that the world of television has to be ruled by a well-balanced and well-done writing and producing”.

Ibrahim Moushawrab, Al Bayan Newspaper, December 6, 2004

“In The Brief Period Since Joining Its Fellow Arab Satellite TV Stations, Alhurra Has Established Its “Arab” Presence Internationally Despite Its American Origin...The station is novel. It is American. It speaks Arabic. Its management has hired the best media people in the Arab world. It benefits from advanced technology...Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samaha has spoken positively of this station. Alhurra has shown that it is ‘worthy of its name’ contrary to the expectations of some It has thus proven itself to be a fair, objective, impartial station that seeks to gain the viewer’s goodwill, attention, and respect.”

Al Diyar Newspaper, April 23, 2004

“Alhurra the American channel surpassed Aljazeera and Alarabiya channels in it’s coverage for the events happening in Egypt lately...”

Salim Azzouz, Al- Quds Al- Arabi July 05, 2005

“Al-Hurra beats Al-Jazeera in Iraq, it has proven that it is the first at unbiased coverage that is evident from the diverse guests who have appeared on its screen on election day. As for those who say that it is against Islam, they are nothing but narrow-minded people who live in dark caves and judge the channel without having watched it. Attacking Al-Hurra is nothing but a cover-up of the Arab media’s failure”

Jawad Hashem, Alarabiya.net, February 2, 2005

“Alhurra Channel slams Al-Jazeera in its recent documentary. Alhurra Channel’s clever blow made Al-Jazeera Channel act like a terrified mouse... The films, which are to be aired by Alhurra, explain the close relationship between the Al-Jazeera staff and the Saddam regime staff”.

Salah Al-Takma Gee, Elaph.com, January 5, 2005

“When the corner stores close for the evening and residents trickle home from evening prayers, an increasing number will tune their televisions to Alhurra, a seven-month-old station which beams American-flavored news from Washington to 22 Arab countries. Despite widespread bitterness toward US policy here, reactions to Alhurra are not entirely negative.”

Will Rasmussen, Daily Star, August 06, 2004 – (original English)

“Alhurra has won, and I say this with total confidence. Alhurra’s Iraqi channel has pulled the rug under the feet of some hateful yelling channels, and has done with an excellence that can be envied. It provides our viewers’ thirst for the truth with news report from the heart of the daily bloody events.”

The Baghdad Newspaper, April 19, 2005

“We should thank the Alhurra initiative, which opened the way, perhaps for the first time for a public and frank dialogue between the media people in Syria, and that’s what we’ve been calling for, for a long period of time.”

Adnan Ali, Al-Hayat, May 6, 2005

“‘One is rewarded despite himself.’ This is the case of the satellite TV stations. Alhurra satellite TV station succeeded in revealing the practices of the government in Egypt on Black Saturday when a group of Egyptians went out into the street to say no to Mubarak after he decided to nominate himself for a fifth consecutive term...Alhurra surpassed Al-Jazeera.”

Salim Azzoz, Al-Quds Newspaper, August 8, 2005

APPENDIX A

Alhurra: Most Recent Surveys

The follow table shows the dates and technical details for the most recent surveys conducted on behalf of Alhurra, along with the results of each, expressed both as percentages of the population studied and absolute numbers. Except where shown, all surveys were conducted by ACNielsen, under the oversight of InterMedia Survey Institute, the BBG's general research contractor. Survey respondents were randomly selected using industry standard sampling methods to represent the adult (15 and older) population of each country studied.

Country	Coverage	Date	Field Contractor	Sample Size	Weekly Audience (% of adults in satellite HHs) ¹	Weekly Audience (% of all adults)	Weekly Audience ²
Algeria	National	May/June 2004	IMMAR ³	2503	14%	11%	2,323,662
Bahrain	Manama	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1200	37%	37%	132,814
Egypt	National	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	2010	7%	4%	2,019,968
Iraq	National	August, 2004	(see note) ⁴	2500	45%	44%	6,609,680
Jordan	National	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1500	28%	21%	729,210
Kuwait	National ⁵	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1506	25%	24%	249,612
Lebanon	National	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1507	30%	27%	874,800
Morocco	Primarily urban ⁶	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	2000	27%	27%	2,672,000
Saudi Arabia	National	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	2001	20%	18%	2,204,784
Syria	Primarily urban	December, 2004	ACNielsen/IPSOS	1516	46%	31%	2,661,129
Tunisia	National	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1501	11%	9%	676,800
UAE	Abu Dhabi/Dubai	May/June 2005	ACNielsen	1202	29%	29%	138,510

¹ "Weekly audience" is defined as all respondents who reported having watched at least once in the previous 7 days. This column shows the weekly audience in each country as a percentage of the adult population residing in households with satellite dishes, as this group represents the potential audience for Alhurra in most countries.

² Number of adults viewing Alhurra at least once in the past week in each country.

³ Purchase of commercial data from IMMAR, a Paris-based firm specializing in market research in North Africa

⁴ For security reasons, the contractor wishes to remain anonymous. This contractor has conducted multiple survey in Iraq in the past two years for a wide range of public and private clients.

⁵ In Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and UAE, surveys covered nationals and Arab expats only.

⁶ Survey primarily covered urban areas but did include small rural sample.



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Also sent to Wolf, Ackerman, Pence, Berman, Ros-Lehtinen, Leahy, Gregg,
Biden, and Lugar*

December 11, 2008

JOAQUIN F. BLAYA

BLANQUITA W. CULLUM

D. JEFFREY HIRSCHBERG

STEVEN J. SIMMONS

THE HONORABLE
CONDOLEEZZA RICE
*Secretary of State
Ex Officio*

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Madam Chair:

Enclosed please find a copy of the "Evaluation of Alhurra Television Programming" conducted by the Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School, University of Southern California.

The Annenberg report provides independent insights into Alhurra programming as of November 2007, and makes recommendations for improving the quality and depth of broadcasts. The Broadcasting Board of Governors agrees with many of these recommendations and will use them to help chart the way forward for Alhurra. The study judges Alhurra against a high standard of journalistic excellence, which we welcome.

The Board requested the Annenberg review to ensure that Alhurra was complying with its journalistic code. The Board is especially gratified that Annenberg researchers found no recurrences of editorial lapses containing inflammatory anti-American and anti-Israeli sentiments, such as the few that occurred between November 2006 and February 2007. In fact, the Annenberg report suggests a pro-American and pro-Israeli tilt to Alhurra's news programming.

While the Annenberg study provides useful findings that will be valuable as Alhurra moves forward, we have some concerns about the study. Notably, we are concerned about Annenberg's persistent comparison of Alhurra with Al Jazeera. The Annenberg study repeatedly holds up Al Jazeera as the standard to measure Alhurra against. We disagree with this point of comparison. The two organizations have markedly different missions and journalistic standards.

Over the last year, Alhurra has made considerable strides to improve the capabilities of its journalists and the editorial controls that govern its work. Alhurra has recruited and hired new staff members, provided mandatory journalist training by leading American universities and continues to strengthen its editorial controls. A May 2008 Office of Inspector General report, which reviewed Alhurra's current programming policies and procedures, concluded that "during

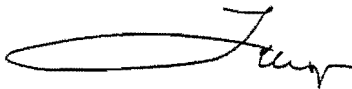
the past year (Alhurra) has put into place more vigorous policies, procedures, training, and tools for transparency in order to preserve its credibility.”

Alhurra realizes it must remain diligent. It is planning a robust training schedule for 2009. In addition, BBG and Alhurra have in place an ongoing process of external and internal evaluations that identify areas for improvement.


We highlight some of the key findings of the Annenberg report and some agency comments on these findings in the enclosure. We are also providing a copy of the critique of editorial content done by the Chairman, Radio-Television Journalism Faculty at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, examining programming from Alhurra broadcasts during July 2008. While the report found some of the same weaknesses in Alhurra’s programming related to balance, scripting, and production, it found that its shortcomings are “episodic and not pervasive.” This report also lays out recommendations for training, which will inform Alhurra’s training program going forward.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the enclosed. The Board stands ready to discuss any of these issues with you at your convenience.

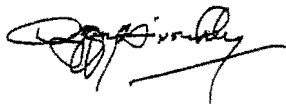
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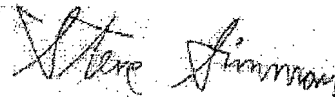
Joaquin F. Blaya
Member



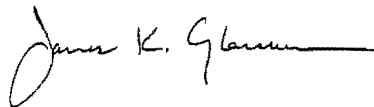
Blanquita W. Cullum
Member



D. Jeffrey Hirschberg
Member



Steven J. Simmons
Member



James K. Glassman
Representing Secretary of State

Enclosures:

1. BBG’s Comments on Key Findings of the Annenberg Report
2. Critique of Editorial Content by the Chairman of Radio-Television Journalism Faculty at the University of Missouri School of Journalism
3. Annenberg Report, University of Southern California

Broadcasting Board of Governors
Comments on Key Findings of the Report of the
University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School:
“An Evaluation of Alhurra Television Programming”

Alhurra’s News Agenda

The Annenberg report found that Alhurra will need to make its news agenda more far-reaching and extend its reporting capability significantly to be competitive in the region. The station should provide more coverage about America, its politics, culture and values – topics that can make it the “go to” channel in the region. The station will need significant new on-the-ground resources to match up with Al Jazeera and other indigenous stations with strong regional infrastructures.

Response: It is true that Al Jazeera’s resources and its network of reporters and bureaus far exceed that of Alhurra, and that it is difficult to compete head-to-head with indigenous channels that have a greater local presence than Alhurra. Alhurra’s new three-hour afternoon show, to be broadcast from the region and scheduled for launch next year, should help to address this deficit. In addition, in initiating Alhurra, the BBG stated that its goal is to provide an alternative to Al Jazeera and other stations – not to surpass them in viewership. That said, Alhurra has exceeded Al Jazeera in viewers in the important Iraqi marketplace where the programming is particularly targeted to the audience, and has a broad audience across the Middle East. With respect to providing coverage of America, Alhurra has already addressed one Annenberg recommendation by providing comprehensive coverage of the U.S. elections during the past year, and has received a strong response from the region. Alhurra will provide more U.S. coverage as resources allow.

Objective News Coverage

The Annenberg report found that Alhurra’s coverage of news was “generally consistent in using value-neutral language.” Coverage was neutral in describing the “Arab” or “other” perspective 94.48 percent of the time; and neutral in describing the “Western” perspective 96.15 percent of the time. Within the small amount of programming where a critical or positive perspective was introduced into the broadcast, Alhurra’s coverage was twice as likely to praise a Western perspective than an Arab one.

Personal judgments of journalists appeared in Alhurra news coverage almost 11 percent of the time. When discussing the Israeli-Arab conflict, 23.91 percent of these personal expressions were likely to be considered against the Arab/other perspective presented and in favor of the Western perspective 13.04 percent of the time.

Response: We agree that Alhurra should always strive for objectivity, and that any introduction of personal judgments by a journalist into the broadcast should be addressed. The report’s findings that Alhurra’s coverage included personal judgments in 11 percent of stories and unsubstantiated information approximately 12 percent of the time indicate that Alhurra falls within the norm for American journalism. To provide context, following the “9-11” attacks, the

Pew Research Center conducted a content analysis of American newspapers and television newscasts. It found “the coverage was strikingly straightforward. More than three quarters (75 percent) of all the coverage was factual – here is what happened – as opposed to analysis or opinion.” By this example, Annenberg’s finding that ‘11 percent included an expression of personal judgment from a journalist’ (or conversely that 89 percent did not include personal expression) suggests Alhurra’s content does not differ greatly from the American media norm.

With respect to Annenberg’s finding that Alhurra’s coverage was twice as likely to praise a Western perspective than an Arab one, we note that, out of roughly 1,200 stories reviewed, just over 3 percent were judged favorable to the Western perspective; 1.5 percent were judged favorably to the Arab perspective.

We also note that “bias” in journalism is difficult to pinpoint, in large part because of the common tendency to level such criticisms at stories that conflict with the viewer’s attitudes and beliefs, or that convey information different from what the viewer gets in his or her normal media diet. This challenge is particularly acute in the Middle East. The result of content analysis is subject to the individual coder’s religion, nationality and ethnic prejudices. Alhurra will strive for balance in programming.

Pro-American and Pro-Israeli Coverage

The Annenberg report identifies a bias in coverage of Arab-Israeli relations and reporting about the Iraq war. Annenberg also reports that this “tilt” did not go unnoticed in discussion groups in the region. Participants noted “uncritical presentation of Israeli positions and a failure of Alhurra journalists to challenge Israeli pronouncements.”

Response: A review of Annenberg’s analysis indicates that, out of 148 stories on the Israeli-Arab conflict, 23 stories (15 percent) included some form of personal judgment. Of these 23 stories, a total of 11 (7 percent) were coded as being against the Arab perspective, and six (4 percent) were coded as being in favor of the Western perspective. In the case of Iraq war coverage, out of 106 stories on this topic, 13 (12 percent) contained some personal judgments, and of those 13.3 (3 percent) were judged as pro-Arab; six (6 percent) were judged as pro-Western. While these findings suggest the need for continued editorial scrutiny, we would not agree with the Annenberg study that this represents a “pronounced tilt.”

Perceptions of bias could damage Alhurra’s credibility in the Middle East. However, our experience in Middle East broadcasting indicates that Arab audiences are highly sensitive to coverage of Israel and the Israeli government, and thus may judge it differently than an American audience might. Alhurra is one of the few venues in the Middle East for airing of views of the Israeli government, and we intend to continue to provide full and objective coverage of these views.

Journalistic Balance and Presentation of U.S. Policy

The Annenberg report found that Alhurra’s reporting during November 2007 failed to present opposing views approximately 60 percent of the time, and notes that a failure to present opposing views “may significantly enhance the perception that Alhurra’s news reporting is biased in favor

of the Bush Administration's foreign policy interests." The report also found that Alhurra programming included unsubstantiated information in its reporting 12.49 percent of the time. These reports were less likely to be critical of U.S. policy, and were over twice as likely to be considered favorable of the Western perspective.

The study also points to what it considers to be contradictions in the BBG's legislative mandate, requiring the broadcasters to represent U.S. policy while also pursuing a journalistic mandate, which may contribute to problems of "balance." Specifically, the report notes that the U.S. International Broadcasting Act's provision requiring that broadcasting shall "be consistent with the broad foreign policy objectives of the United States . . . may blur the line between 'promoting' and 'presenting' U.S. policy." Later, Annenberg concludes that "Many of Alhurra's troubles seem to stem from a perceived identity crisis: Is it a news channel or a propaganda tool? Is its primary commitment to solid journalism or to serving political purposes?"

Response: We take very seriously the report's findings on the percentage of stories that failed to include an opposing point of view. This should be addressed through training and editorial oversight. We note, however, that there are many news stories for which the presentation of an "opposing view" may be irrelevant, such as during on-the-scene coverage of a press conference or suicide bombing, and that the mechanistic criterion used to identify the lack of opposing viewpoints might not take this into account. In addition, journalistic balance can often be found in the totality of a station's broadcasting rather than analyzing story by story. Annenberg's finding that roughly 95 percent of the overall coverage was "value neutral" and that roughly 90 percent of the overall coverage was free of personal judgments suggests that the problem of balance is less severe than suggested by the single statistic reporting on the inclusion of opposing views.

With respect to Annenberg's suggestion that certain statutory language imposes an "identity crisis" on Alhurra, all BBG broadcast entities are challenged to present U.S. policies and responsible discussion of those policies, while maintaining the highest professional standards of broadcast journalism. Annenberg describes this task as "exceptionally difficult." But it is only exceptionally difficult if there is an expectation that programming "promote" U.S. policies rather than "present" them in a journalistic context. We believe that statute requires the latter.

Annenberg found that "Alhurra was more likely to promote U.S. policy than describe it neutrally" when reporting on certain issues. But the report also found that, with respect to journalistic balance, Alhurra "was especially strong on its reliance on sources in its coverage of the Israel-Arab conflict (average of 4.47 sources per story), American public diplomacy (3.42), and Iraqi security (3.28)." In addition, Alhurra cited an average of 2.81 sources per issue. Alhurra's Code of Ethics requires two sources per story.

Comparison with Al Jazeera and Coverage of Opposition Voices

The Annenberg report finds that Alhurra is insufficiently critical of activities that fall under the category of "Arab democratic governance," and that its failure to be more critical of Arab regimes "puts Alhurra in stark contrast with Al Jazeera, which is known for being critical of many Arab regimes. Given that Al Jazeera is widely considered to be the most credible and viewed news broadcaster in the region . . . this contrast does not bode well for Alhurra's brand."

Response: These findings appear to be somewhat contradictory. We question the notion that Al Jazeera is the ‘most credible’ news broadcaster in the region. We will follow-up with Annenberg for clarification.

While Al Jazeera may report with passion, we cannot rely on it to report with accuracy. A recent example regarding a simple report on President Bush’s speech before the United Nations High Level Debate on Interfaith Dialogue in New York, on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008, illustrates why Al Jazeera is not a model for U.S. international broadcasting. In reporting on President Bush’s speech, Al Jazeera portrayed the President as encouraging people to convert to Christianity and the war in Iraq as religiously motivated. The channel’s evening newscast said: “Bush supports the right of religious conversion,” which is a distortion of his speech supporting the free exercise of religion. The channel’s correspondent said the President disappointed observers by not apologizing for his “wars and adventures” and that “he justified his wars in the name of religion...” Such reporting is precisely why we need a voice in the region.

An examination of Alhurra’s coverage of Arab democratic governance indicates that 92.5 percent of Alhurra’s programming on the subject was “neutral regarding U.S. policy.” Given Alhurra’s goal to report journalistically, this might be seen as appropriate and objective programming. However, the report takes a critical view, stating: “A failure to be critical of the activities that fall under this category signals a certain similarity between Alhurra and the traditional state-run Arab media broadcasters” and “in stark contrast with Al Jazeera, which is known for being critical of many Arab regimes.”

Alhurra’s “brand” foremost should be that of accuracy and objectivity. Annenberg comments that “the presentation of news on Al Jazeera reflects a passion that is well suited for an audience that feels passionately about many of the issues and events that the channel covers.” Alhurra will not play to audience passions in the Middle East in order to attract viewers. Its model is that of a free marketplace of ideas and a free press in the American tradition.

Recommendations Resulting from Discussion Groups

Annenberg convened discussion groups in Beirut, Cairo, and Dubai to obtain commentary from the region about Alhurra’s programming. Its report quotes discussion group participants as saying that Alhurra “fails to win the hearts and minds of the Arab people” and that the depth of Al Jazeera’s coverage leaves “little incentive to watch Alhurra.”

Response: We value the comments from these discussion groups. We note, however, that Annenberg’s discussion groups differ markedly from those convened by commercial survey and research organizations that are used by the BBG to gain feedback on programming. While the BBG attempts to gain commentary from groups of listeners who broadly represent the viewing population, Annenberg’s group participants were of a more “elite” character, representing a selection of professors and journalists from the region. In addition, in the Middle East we have found a predilection of the sessions to conform to a group dynamic critical of the U.S. and U.S. Government broadcasting, rather than engage in truly frank exchanges about a topic that is deemed to be politically sensitive. For that reason, BBG qualitative research has generally taken the form of one-on-one in-depth interviews, which allow respondents to express themselves openly and without the need to conform to “politically correct” viewpoints.

General Comments

The Annenberg report identifies many areas where Alhurra Television can improve as well as opinions on how it should focus its mission. Annenberg acknowledges the limitations of its review, stating that: “This study is, admittedly, narrow. It looked at one month’s news and topical programming and it queried a limited, albeit highly qualified, array of discussion group panelists.” Nonetheless, understanding that limitations of time and scope accompany most reviews of programming, the Annenberg report will be used as a serious tool in the BBG’s continued evaluation of Alhurra and in the Middle East Broadcasting Networks’ management and program planning. As we do so, we will also take actions based on other independent research about Alhurra contracted by the Board.

One of the report’s primary conclusions includes the comment that “Alhurra has failed to become competitive.” This finding – for which no data is provided in the report – contrasts sharply with independent research by industry leader A.C. Nielsen and other firms that show that Alhurra attracts some 26 million viewers weekly across the Middle East. Together with Radio Sawa, U.S. international broadcasting reaches 35 million adults weekly in the Middle East. By comparison, the Voice of America’s former Arabic Service drew at most 3 million listeners weekly.

A public opinion poll by the Iraq based think tank, the Iraq Center for Research & Strategic Studies, conducted from late September to October 2008, included face-to-face interviews with 3,000 Iraqis from September 25 to October 5, 2008. When asked “What is your favorite TV channel for news,” 21.7 percent named Al Arabiya; 18.9 percent named Al Iraqiya; 17.6 percent named Alhurra Iraq; and 13.6 percent named Al Jazeera.

We take particular note of Annenberg’s statements that, “to win a larger audience [Alhurra] cannot simply mirror the news content of other channels but must distinguish itself from them” and that viewers are intensely interested in how “America works.” A current review of Alhurra’s programming would reflect a marked increase in programming about American politics and governance – well beyond what the station aired in November 2007, the focus of Annenberg’s program review. In particular, the U.S. presidential elections during the past year have provided a focal point for presenting American democracy, and Alhurra has thoroughly presented this process, from the grass-roots primaries through the final face-off between the candidates.

Alhurra Television aired live coverage of the Democratic and Republican Conventions, including simultaneous translation of key convention speeches and interviews with top policy advisers, political analysts, activists, and Muslim and Arab-American delegates. Alhurra’s journalists delved deeply into issues of special importance to Alhurra viewers in the Middle East, such as the Iraq war, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, human rights, energy policy, as well as American domestic issues such as the economy, health care, education, and civil liberties. By presenting different points of view on the presidential nominees and their platforms, Alhurra exhibited the diversity in American political life and opinion. A delegate to the Democratic Convention from Texas, Fatima Biviji, explained how she had never been involved in politics until this election. She noted that she, a veiled Muslim woman, was treated with acceptance and open mindedness.

Feedback from the region has been considerable. One viewer wrote: "Thank you very much for your excellent program *Road to the White House*. I have been following this outstanding and superb coverage since the beginning of this convention. All of my friends love it too and we all stay up late until the morning to learn about the convention and democracy which is not available anywhere else in the Arabic televisions. You surely made yourself distinctive among other Arabic stations."

Another viewer wrote: "We hear so much about Republicans and Democrats but I have not understood before how ordinary people got engaged in the democratic process. I love your program about the convention. You are the best and no other television is like you when it comes to educating and making us understand America and the world. Keep [up] the good work on this program."

Alhurra's election coverage has been cited by Al Hayat as "the most professional and active satellite TV channel among all the Arabic-speaking satellite channels in covering the U.S. presidential primaries." Al Hayat, a leading daily pan-Arabic newspaper, noted Alhurra's "striking professional and objective methodology" in its intensive coverage, and praised Alhurra for its ability to allow Arab-speaking viewers to "learn about these long-standing democratic traditions and make them more aware of the reality of plurality and diversity prevailing in America."

Another sign of Alhurra's stature in the region is its growing reputation as a source of news by respected news organizations in the English and Arabic media, such as Associated Press, Reuters, AFP, Al-Hayat and An-Nahar. Citations of Alhurra's reports and interviews in other media outlets is a sign of its integration into the region as well as its maturation as a journalistic news medium.

Alhurra is still a young enterprise, evolving its mix of programming and enhancing its professionalism. At its inception, it was understood that the network would face challenges in the marketplace. As the Annenberg report notes, "Alhurra tends to be viewed as American/Western, and therefore must overcome significant audience skepticism and mistrust." This distrust was a given, prior to Alhurra's first broadcasts – and it is a distrust that U.S. international broadcasting has faced in the early stages of nearly all its language services, dating back to 1942. But Alhurra has proven that it can draw an audience in a distrustful environment. A large proportion of that audience finds its broadcasts credible. We believe that this trust in the network's news and information will build over time as Alhurra continues to enrich its programming.

ALHURRA TELEVISION

FOCUS GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT

Critique of Editorial Content

in order to
Enhance News Judgment
and
Build Journalistic Excellence

October 2008

MBN's mission is to broadcast news which is consistently accurate, authoritative, objective, balanced and comprehensive. MBN strives to serve as a model of the free marketplace of ideas and a free press in the American tradition...

-- Middle East Broadcasting Networks Code of Ethics

Report on research focus groups in Columbia, MO and Washington, DC
on the editorial quality of Alhurra Television news programming.

Research conducted by
Kent S. Collins
Chairman
Radio-Television Journalism Faculty

**Missouri School of Journalism
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri**

5 October 2008

Methodology

- Researchers obtained from Alhurra DVD's of news reports. The perimeters: The lead correspondent report on both the Pan Arab newscast and the Iraq stream newscast on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings of two arbitrarily selected weeks (July 14 and July 21, 2008).
- Researchers translated the 12 stories into English.
- Researchers selected four stories of the 12 for viewing by focus groups. Selection was based on clarity of content, likely familiarity of American audiences via American newspapers and television coverage, and importance to the Arabic speaking world.
- Researchers produced translation with subtitles and printed text of the four stories.
- Focus group respondents in Columbia, Missouri (middle America) and Washington, DC (news capital of the world) reviewed and discussed these stories. Focus groups facilitator: Professor Kent S. Collins, chairman of the Radio-Television Journalism Faculty, Missouri School of Journalism.
- Focus group respondents included working journalists from America, experienced journalists from the Middle East, journalism scholars, and a linguistics scholar. (See "Profiles of Focus Group Respondents" in this report.

Executive Summary

This executive summary addresses five issues:

1. It acknowledges recent criticism of Alhurra news content.
2. It suggests that the shortcomings of Alhurra news content are episodic and not pervasive.
3. It outlines ways to further strengthen editorial control at Alhurra Television.
4. This report describes some weaknesses in journalistic 'storytelling' techniques.
5. And it notes the extreme difficulties inherent in the fast-track development of a television operation.

Despite recent criticism in the American media and politically biased criticism in the Middle East, Alhurra Television does most things right most of the time. This is born out by critical review of Alhurra news stories and newscasts.

The research focus group respondents in Columbia, MO and Washington, DC were asked to critically review a series of news stories. (See profiles of respondents on page 9.) Respondents were not asked to offer praise – there was an expectation of high quality in most things most of the time. That high quality was acknowledged by the respondents in the process of finding lapses that need to be addressed in Alhurra newscasting.

Here is the summary:

- Correspondents in the field need more detailed direction from newsroom managers in the Springfield, VA headquarters. (See the example of the World Court indictment of the president of The Sudan.)
- Correspondents need to discuss with newsroom managers in Springfield, VA the limitations in the field, and how additional Alhurra resources must be assigned so as to report stakeholders and elements of the story not accessible to the assigned correspondent. (See the example of the exchange of combatant remains and POW's.)
- Newsroom managers must approach correspondent reports as only one part of the bigger story, and then make editorial adjustments to ensure comprehensive, unbiased coverage. (See example below of the Obama visit to the Middle East.)
- Newsroom management should establish a regular and rigorous review of each newscast. This review should include a cross-section of Alhurra journalists and managers. This review should result in written critique distributed to all journalists..

Respondents in both locations were remarkably alike in their evaluations of the Alhurra content. They reported that *individual* stories (a correspondent's report) often lacked sufficient balance and thus could be perceived as delivering a biased message, even if subsequent stories on the same subject did provide balance in total. But the respondents – professional journalists -- insisted that these failings could be corrected by:

- the addition of more sources (especially the citizenry) in the individual correspondent's story.
- reduced reliance on government and official sources in the individual correspondent's report.
- and more sophisticated scripting in which the anchors clearly tell viewers that there is team coverage so as to report all sides of the story and/or clear scripting for the anchor to read to indicate the first story is followed by other stories to cover other sides and other stakeholders in the subject matter.

The journalists in the focus groups noted that some Alhurra stories failed to use the best practices of modern journalistic production/storytelling. Best practices of television news production/storytelling include – but are not limited to -- use of interesting video (visuals), diverse on-camera sources, and compelling story construction. Here are some best practices (examples to follow in the next section of this report):

- Video should show the people impacted -- people in cafes and in their workplaces and their homes.
- Video should not be confined to officials sitting at conference tables.
- Video should be in the streets, where the action is, not in news conferences. (News conferences are NOT news stories. News conferences render short soundbites to incorporate into stories about IMPACT ON OR REACTION FROM THE CITIZENRY.)
- On-camera sources must include more sides of the story. Too often in the stories viewed by the focus groups and by the researchers, the official or government side dominates.
- On-camera sources must include the citizens, their joys, their fears, their opinions.
- On-camera sources must include unbiased analysts – *unbiased* – who put the story in perspective to enhance understanding. (“What does all this mean...?”)
- Compelling story construction can cause all the above to happen logically and naturally.
- Compelling story construction means highlighting point of view of those impacted. Who of the citizenry (school children, small business people, soldiers, families) will be hurt and who will be helped by the news of the day?
- The best practices of compelling story construction includes – for example -- opening the story in the shop of a family who will benefit from more police and military security, and shopkeepers hurting because of extortion and crime in the neighborhood.
- Compelling story construction best practices includes using the story to create a public forum with both sides of an issue going point-counterpoint.

Best practices in modern television news storytelling/production are in italics in the examples below.

For example:

The story on the World Court indictment of the president of The Sudan included only government officials and government supporters. While representatives of the Darfur community have offices in Khartoum, their representatives were not interviewed or mentioned. Opposition parties were not interviewed or mentioned. The diplomatic community in the capital city were not interviewed or mentioned. This story was all about government denial.

Admittedly, there were other stories subsequent in the newscast with information from The Hague, Washington, DC and New York City. But those do not provide the balance needed in the first story as cited above. Producers should have scripted and anchors should have written more detail -- even if only one sentence -- about the content of the reports to come from The Hague, Washington, DC, and New York City. That inclusion would have indicated to viewers that complete and fair reporting was to be in the aggregate.

Additionally, the lead correspondent needed to note briefly the details of the crimes in question and the outrage of many countries and groups worldwide at the situation in Darfur.

This failing could easily have been addressed by more rigorous editorial control early in the reporting process.

This story ignores the people impacted, and thus fails to be a story compelling to the average viewers of the region. There are no visual or scripted references to the people of Darfur or the people on the streets of Khartoum. This story needs man-on-the-street interviews. And if the man-on-the-street is too fearful to voice an opinion, then the correspondent is honor-bound to report that in the script.

This story content is simply government officials contesting the charges, and government-influenced sources posing questions that serve to weaken the seriousness of the World Court charges.

Compelling story content requires inclusion of the Darfur combatants and refugees.

For example:

On July 16th, Alhurra led the newscast with a story about Israel and Hezbollah executing an exchange of POW's and body remains. The story exhibited an Israeli tilt, at least in large part because the correspondent had no access to Hezbollah territory across the border, and thus had little involvement of Muslim and Arab sources. It was not a one-side story. But it was not in balance. Viewers received far less information about reaction in the Muslim/Arab world in this individual correspondent report.

The fact that the first story might have been followed by another story providing balance does not absolve the correspondent of the first story from acknowledging in more detail the Hezbollah side.

The shortcomings in this story could well have been alleviated in several ways: Assigning the correspondent to make more reference to the other side, or simply making

crystal clear in the scripted anchor introduction ('anchor lead-in') that Alhurra was providing team coverage with multiple reports to address all sides. (Television producers often address such issues of balance by leading the newscast with a short voice-over video of both sides with a well-referenced anchor script; then rolling multiple packages for the details.) These are issues of newscast producing, and thus, newsroom management editorial control.

News production and storytelling best practices require more involvement of the Israeli and Muslim/Arab people. Where are their voices? A 'spokesman' for the families of the Israeli POW/KIA is a weak substitute for the mothers and brothers of those on both sides of border.

Is there relief in Israeli tonight? How do shopkeepers – not politically-charged protesters -- in Beirut or the West Bank react to the exchange of prisoners and remains?

The story has various soundbites with officials-in-charge and two politicians at the Knesset. But, where are the people of Israel and the Muslim Arab world?

For example:

Senator Obama visited several locations in the Middle East in July as part of his presidential election campaign imaging. On the newscast of July 23rd, his visit to Israel was reported by a correspondent in a 4-minute report that includes several 'sound-bites' of Israeli officials and from Mr. Obama. The second story in the newscast showed Mr. Obama in Palestine, with only a 'voice-over' format, no 'sound-bites' with Palestinian officials and precious little details. That's not balanced. That leaves the impression of bias.

Best journalism production/storytelling practices require the journalists involved in this story (either the correspondent or the news editors in Springfield, VA who can assign additional resources to the story) to ask, "Who cares?"

Senator Obama's trip to the region is important to Mr. Obama, the American political scene and the American media. But do the people of the region care? Does his visit impact their lives? Again, this story needs to go inside the households and cafes to ask, "who cares?" It needs to give context to Mr. Obama's visit and to his value to the people who will watch this story on Alhurra television. The construction of this story as is would satisfy only an American viewer, not a viewer in the Middle East.

Verbatims

(Selected responses of focus group members in support of the Executive Summary.)

EXAMPLE # 1

WORLD COURT INDICTS SUDAN PRESIDENT

“The war crimes are never explained! Why is he being indicted? Just how serious and rational are the accusations against Al-Bashir? The story needs to answer those questions.”

“This is only about the government, about Al-Bashir’s government. It is about its reaction and point of view. It needs more stakeholders interviewed.”

“Too much assumption that the viewers in the rest of the Middle East know what is going on in Sudan and Darfur. The story is weak because it is not comprehensive.”

“Even if other stories in the newscast give detail, this first story needs to at least mention that the Sudan president could be arrest, or sanctions could be put on his government.”

“If the reporter cannot go to Darfur, then the producers must use file tape to show the refugees there.”

“The entire script is written in a way that gives credibility to the government position, without challenge.”

“Maybe the story from The Hague should have led the newscast – been first.”

“The video is just ‘wallpaper.’ Not properly referenced. We don’t know what we are looking at as we hear the words.”

EXAMPLE # 2

ISRAEL AND HEZBOLLAH EXCHANGE POW’S AND BODY REMAINS

“Where is the balance between the Israeli side and the Lebanese/Arab side of this story? It’s lopsided.”

“Too many officials; too many suits.”

“Considering that this newscast is targeting the Arabic speaking audience, why is this story leading with the Israeli side of the story? This must create a disconnect with the viewers.”

“This is a story of great emotion on both sides. But the storytelling is void of emotion. It needs families and regular people to speak about this event.”

“The story is biased in favor of Israel.”

“There is not value in the soundbites with the two Knesset members.”

“Israeli’s in flag-draped coffins. The Lebanese guy is in handcuffs. Injustice.”

“Story construction is weak – jumbled.”

“Not as good as it should have been.”

EXAMPLE # 3

SENATOR OBAMA TOUR

“Arab viewers must be insulted. Abbas part of the Obama story is only a footnote.”

“This is a pro-Israel report. It is not even-handed.”

“If you have a correspondent covering the Israel side, then you need a balance with a correspondent covering the Palestinian side.”

“The story misses the point. His visit is not most important. The story should be about how people in the region react to him.”

“Considering the audience for Alhurra, the visit to Palestinian leaders should have been first, and then visit to Israel second in the newscast lineup.”

“The story makes Obama seems like the voice of all of America.”

“Visual monotony. Boring. Formula video.”

Profile of Focus Group Respondents

In Columbia, Missouri

- Veteran news anchor at the local NBC affiliate television station. Approximately 40 years old; female; American born. Well known in the community civil life. Adjunct instructor in journalism education.
- News director of the local CBS affiliate television station. Approximately 40 years old; male; American born. Extensive experience as an investigative reporter and producer for television stations in Florida and Minnesota.
- Professor emeritus of journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism. Veteran newscast anchor and news director. Approximately 80 years old; male; American born. Nationally recognized figure in American journalism.
- Student in the masters degree program at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Approximately 28 years old; male; Iraqi born; Kurdish ethnicity. Experienced in his home country as a newspaper and magazine journalist.
- Professor of linguistics at the University of Missouri. Approximately 50 years old; male; Iraqi born. Faculty member on leave from the University of Baghdad. Member of the Iraqi Translators Association.
- Graduate student at the Missouri School of Journalism. Approximately 25 years old; male; American born. Experienced as a television reporter, writer and producer. Specialty is religious affairs reporting.
- News director of the mid-Missouri National Public Radio affiliate. Approximately 40 years old; female; American born. Extensive experience in radio and newspaper journalism in America and Europe.

In Washington, DC

- Veteran television journalist; now a top executive at a Washington, DC public relations and lobbying firm. Approximately 40 years old; male; American born. Extensive experience in four television markets as an investigative reporter. Also served as press secretary to a former state governor.
- Anchor for a major Washington, DC television station. Approximately 50 years old; male; American born. Extensive experience as a trainer of individual television journalists and for news organizations.
- Graduate student in journalism assigned to the Washington, DC program of the Missouri School of Journalism. Approximately 26 years old; female; Iraqi born. Experienced as a newspaper writer in Iraq and Washington, DC.
- Documentary producer for the Public Broadcasting System in Washington, DC. Approximately 30 years old; female; American born. Experienced in both local and national news reporting.
- Executive producer for television in the Washington, DC bureau of a major international news agency. Approximately 40 years old; male; American born. Experienced working with both American and international journalists in the reporting and producing of news stories and documentaries distributed to news agency clients worldwide.

Recommendations for Further Development
of Journalistic Excellence
at Alhurra Television

The focus group discussions reaffirmed that Alhurra journalists possess the skill sets necessary to produce high quality reporting and high quality television production. But the focus group discussions revealed a recurring – though not pervasive -- disconnect between assignments given to correspondents and news judgment exercised by newscast producers. Restated: Correspondents in Washington, DC and in the Middle East are capable journalists. But they need more direction and critique from newscast producers and newsroom management.

To improve Alhurra journalism, consider these recommendations:

- 1.) Convene discussion groups of Alhurra management and newscast producers in the Springfield, VA headquarters. Present to them sample stories in a manner similar to the presentation to the two focus groups. Encourage their unbridled critique of the stories and their placement in the newscasts. Share with the group the Executive Summary pages only of this report. Result: Greater awareness of the shortcomings of news story presentation, including the infrequent exhibition of bias and imbalance and shortage of sources.
- 2.) Conduct a structured review of written policies and related documents concerning editorial control. Editorial control is exercised in the story meetings, the story assignment function, and the post-newscast critique. Then re-write policies and related documents as management deems appropriate.
- 3.) Conduct Storytelling Best Practices workshops for correspondents, videographers, video editors and producers. These training workshops must include video examples of best practices or of worst practices. Instruction must include ‘story boarding’ of example stories. (How would you report, shoot or edit this story....?)

Important note: For the most part, Alhurra journalists are conditioned to a very different kind of journalism. They were trained to report the stories of the totalitarian governments that owned and operated the media. They were, in fact, propagandists for the messages of the government. Their journalism-of-origin is nothing like the journalism culture of independence and public service in American and most Western countries.

Alhurra, thus, has a competitive opportunity unlike any other television operation serving the Middle East. If Alhurra can transition its correspondents, videographers, editors and producers into the American tradition (as best described as the ‘elements of journalism’), then Alhurra will have a significant competitive advantage over Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya and the many other television news operations in the region.

The Elements of Journalism include:

- Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
- Its loyalty is to the citizens.
- Its discipline is that of verification.
- Journalism must be independent from sources.
- It must serve – at times – as a watchdog.
- Journalism should serve as a public forum for ideas and criticism.
- It must be relevant and interesting (i.e., incorporate best practices of storytelling).
- Journalism must be comprehensive and proportional.

(From the book The Elements of Journalism by Kovach and Rosenstiel.)

Final Note

Alhurra Television's fast-track development is unrivaled in American television history. Never before has so much been done so fast: Funding the operation, establishing operations centers in the U.S. and in the Middle East, hiring personnel (difficult-to-recruit key personnel being Arabic speakers with significant journalism credentials) securing vendors of complicated technologies and creating systems and policies. This has been a daunting task, well managed to this point – despite the need for more editorial control.

Clearly, journalism everywhere is subject to criticism and second-guessing and political influence. Compare the current critique of the American media in the coverage of the domestic presidential campaign to the more complicated political, ethnic, religious and nationalistic environment in which Alhurra operates.

That said, Alhurra Television must now take two big steps: radically improve editorial control to eliminate bias and imbalance in coverage, and teach staff the best practices in television news storytelling and production.

End of report.

Broadcasting Board of Governors
Report on Alhurra Iraq
3rd Quarter 2006

In response to the requirement in the Conference Report on H. Rpt 2862, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (H. Rpt 109-272), directing the BBG to submit a quarterly status report detailing the progress of the BBG television stream tailored specifically for the Iraqi audience, the BBG submits the following FY 2006 3rd quarter status report.

3rd Quarter FY 2006

Staffing

The Alhurra-Iraq News and Current Affairs Department has a staff of 27 employees located at the Alhurra headquarters in Springfield, Va. and 45 contractors in Iraq. Most of the contractors in Iraq work out of the Alhurra-Iraq bureau in the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. Others work throughout the country. Programming and news reports are sent from Baghdad to Springfield via a 24/7 satellite link.

Program Schedule Summary

The Alhurra-Iraq schedule includes 17 ½ hours a day of Alhurra-produced programs and 6 ½ hours of acquired programming. Included in this schedule are the following:

- Thirteen programs dedicated specifically to the Iraqi audience for an average of eight daily hours. These programs include “Burj Babel,” “Iraq Today,” “In Iraqi,” “The Newspaper,” “Between Generations,” “Seven Days,” “Doors,” “Talk of Two Rivers,” “Final Edition,” and “Sports Studio.”
- Daily news programming featuring four in-depth one-hour newscasts, including a one-hour newscast geared toward an Iraqi audience each day; 10-minute updates at the top of most hours; and brief news headlines during other programming.
- Alhurra-produced current affairs programs - such as “Eye on Democracy,” “Equality,” “Inside Washington” and “With the People” - that examine human rights, the rights of women, and democracy.
- Acquired programming that includes A&E Biographies, award-winning documentaries from around the world, and Modern Marvels.

Highlights of Programming

Throughout its two-year history, Alhurra-Iraq has provided a forum for discussion of important topics by a wide variety of experts, including voices of moderation. Alhurra’s talk shows, roundtables, and documentaries have routinely tackled vital topics that are taboo on other stations in the region, including the struggle for human rights, the position of women in Arab society, religious freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In the third quarter of FY 2006, Alhurra-Iraq continued its extensive coverage of the Saddam Hussein trial, and the political and security situation in Iraq. Several stories dominated the Iraqi

media and Alhurra-Iraq provided in-depth coverage of each of them, including U.S. President George W. Bush's surprise trip to Iraq; Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's announcement of his cabinet; and the killing of terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Alhurra-Iraq provided comprehensive reports on each of these issues, including updates from reporters throughout Iraq as well as expert analysis from Iraq, Washington and other locations around the world.

Alhurra-Iraq's coverage has been focusing on the emerging Iraqi democracy by conducting in-depth interviews with prominent Iraqi political figures. Interviews included political leaders such as:

- Jalal Talabani, Iraqi President
- Samir Al Sumaidai, Iraqi Ambassador to the United States
- Adnan Al Mufti, Speaker of the Kurdish regional parliament
- Massoud Al- Barazani, President of the Iraqi Province of Kurdistan
- Khodair Al Khozai, Member of the Iraqi Parliament
- Thafer Al Aani, Member of the Iraqi Parliament
- Dr. Adnan Al Bajaji, Interim Chief of the Iraqi Parliament
- Saleh Al Matlaq, Leader of the Iraqi National Dialogue parliamentary bloc
- Meshkat Al Mo'men, Former Minister of Environment in Iraq
- Salman Al Jmaily, Member of the Iraqi Parliament
- Ali Al Adib, Member of the Iraqi Parliament and a member in the United Iraqi union
- Wafiq Al Sameraee, Security Advisor to the Iraqi president

Alhurra-Iraq also aired several special reports during the 3rd quarter. One such report, *Making of Fear*, was a three-and-a-half hour report examining the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein. The documentary presented historical footage in addition to analysis from leading Iraqi experts who chronicled the tyranny of Saddam's regime and commented on the changes that are occurring now, as Iraq becomes a democracy.

Another documentary produced and broadcast on Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq was *Virtual Terrorism*. The documentary examined the growing concern over terrorist activities through the Internet. *Virtual Terrorism* provided an in-depth look at how terrorists have used the World Wide Web for communication and training purposes and reports on what security officials are doing to track and prevent these activities and included interviews with leading experts on the subject.

The weekly program *Eye on Democracy*, which focuses on the struggle for democracy and human rights in the Middle East and around the world, did a special report on the emerging democratic political landscape in Iraq. The program discussed how cultural, social and political differences challenge democratic societies, and it focused on what can be done to resolve these issues through democracy. The program demonstrated how Iraqi issues and the struggle for democracy relate to other countries around the world.

Alhurra's flagship talk show, *Free Hour*, produced a series of programs from Irbil, Iraq to look at the role of Kurds in the Iraqi political system. Guests included:

- Fouad Hussein, Chief of Staff of the Kurdistan Regional Government

- Saidi Ahmad Birreh, Kurdistan national union
- Fadel Al Mirani Kurdistan democratic party
- Muhamd Ihsan, Human Rights Minister –Kurdistan government
- Jamal Shan, President of the Iraqi national Turkmen party

Alhurra-Iraq also broadcast live speeches from President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with simultaneous translation, live coverage of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's announcement of his cabinet to parliament, and the press briefing announcing the new National Security, Defense and Interior Ministers.

**Broadcasting Board of Governors
Report on Alhurra Iraq
4th Quarter 2006**

In response to the requirement in the Conference Report on H. Rpt 2862, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (H. Rpt 109-272), directing the BBG to submit a quarterly status report detailing the progress of the BBG television stream tailored specifically for the Iraqi audience, the BBG submits the FY 2006 4th quarter status report.

4th Quarter FY 2006

Staffing

The Alhurra-Iraq News and Current Affairs Department has a staff of 25 employees located at the Alhurra headquarters in Springfield, Va. and 49 contractors in Iraq. Most of the contractors in Iraq work out of the Alhurra-Iraq bureau in the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. Others work throughout the country. Programming and news reports are sent from Baghdad to Springfield via a 24/7 satellite link.

Program Schedule Summary

The Alhurra-Iraq schedule includes more than 85 percent of Alhurra produced news and programming, with 40 percent of the programming focusing on issues specific to Iraq. The schedule includes the following programming:

- Thirteen programs dedicated specifically to the Iraqi audience for an average of eight daily hours. These programs include "Burj Babel," "Iraq Today," "In Iraqi," "The Newspaper," "Between Generations," "Seven Days," "Doors," "Talk of Two Rivers," "Final Edition," and "Sports Studio."
- Daily news programming featuring four in-depth one-hour newscasts, including a one-hour newscast geared toward an Iraqi audience each day; 10-minute updates at the top of most hours; and brief news headlines during other programming.
- Alhurra-produced current affairs programs – such as "Eye on Democracy," "Equality," "Inside Washington" and "With the People" – that examine human rights, the rights of women, and democracy.
- Acquired programming that includes A&E Biographies, award-winning documentaries from around the world, and Modern Marvels.

Highlights of Programming

Throughout its two-year history, Alhurra-Iraq has provided a forum for discussion of important topics by a wide variety of experts, including voices of moderation. Alhurra's talk shows, roundtables, and documentaries have routinely tackled vital topics that are taboo on other stations in the region, including the struggle for human rights, the position of women in Arab society, religious freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In the fourth quarter of FY 2006, several stories dominated the Iraqi media, and Alhurra-Iraq provided in-depth coverage of each of them with updates from reporters throughout Iraq as well as expert analysis from Iraq, Washington and other locations around the world. Alhurra-Iraq continued its extensive coverage of the Saddam Hussein trial and the political and security situation in Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's visit to Washington was covered extensively, with live coverage of the Prime Minister's

address to Congress and joint press conference with President George W. Bush. Alhurra extensively covered the National Iraqi Reconciliation Conference, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's speech to the UN, and with simultaneous translation, live speeches from President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Alhurra-Iraq continued its series "The Report." This series takes an in-depth look at the issues facing Iraqis. The documentary-style program provided a comprehensive look at the difficulties associated with identifying and burying the dead. With the current security situation in Iraq, "The Report" examined this little discussed – but prevalent – problem in Iraq. The Government struggles to identify those who have been killed and to inform the next of kin, but it is difficult to get the information and the problem is becoming more and more difficult. The documentary examined this growing issue and the steps the government is taking to overcome it.

A second edition of "The Report" that aired in the 4th quarter examined the impact that intellectuals have had on the Iraqi people and culture. Under Saddam Hussein's rule, many Iraqi intellectuals fled their homes in Iraq to take refuge in neighboring nations, often hoping to return to Iraq one day. However, many of the Iraqi intellectuals did not return to Iraq, and when they died, they were buried in their host country. "The Report" looked at how many of these burial spots have become historic landmarks to Iraqis as they travel to different burial grounds, the trips evolving into present-day pilgrimages for many Iraqis. The documentary focused on one of the most popular sights, the Khaldeen Cemetery outside of Damascus, and talked with Iraqis who traveled hundreds of miles just to visit the cemetery.

Alhurra-Iraq also produced a documentary on Saddam Hussein's brother, Barazan Tikriti. As they stand on trial side-by-side, the documentary "Barazan" explored the atrocities that came at the hand of this once powerful man. As the former leader of the Iraqi secret service Barazan is said to have been responsible for countless acts of murder and torture in Iraq. "Barazan" focused on the life of this former member of "Saddam's Dirty Dozen" as well as his arrest and trial.

Alhurra-Iraq's coverage has also been focusing on the emerging Iraqi democracy through many of its talk shows. One weekly discussion program, "Talk of Two Rivers" focuses on the most important issues facing Iraqis in their struggle for democracy. The discussions vary across security, political and social issues and include topics such as:

- The influence of Iran on Iraq
- The challenges facing deBaathification
- Inter-Islamic talks in Iraq
- The impact of the U.S. adding more security to Baghdad
- Possible coups facing the Iraqi government
- How the gas crisis is affecting Iraqi citizens
- National reconciliation in Iraq
- Federalism in Iraq
- Amending the Iraqi constitution

**SECTION 2104 STATUS REPORT
BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROPRIATIONS
Six-Month Update – December 2006**

The FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-13) included \$7.3 million for Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) programs. The financial plan and the status of the projects are described below.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS (\$4.8 million)

The financial plan provided \$4.8 million for International Broadcasting Operations:

- \$2.4 million to enhance programming to the broader Middle East by increasing VOA Persian television to one hour a day and to initiate a television program in VOA Urdu to Pakistan, including associated audience development and marketing efforts. VOA Persian surged to one hour in the lead up to the 2005 election and continues the one-hour daily program with enhanced reporting from locations worldwide. VOA's Urdu Service entered the Pakistani TV market in November of 2005 by launching a 30-minute TV news magazine show, *Beyond the Headlines*, which airs 5 days a week (M-F) during prime time on GEO, Pakistan's most widely watched satellite TV channel.
- \$2.0 million to initiate an Alhurra stream to Europe, including associated audience development efforts. Alhurra Europe was launched in August 2006.
- \$.4 million to enhance audience development efforts in Indonesia by improving program delivery. IBB's Office of Marketing and Program Placement launched a campaign in the 4th quarter to promote VOA's Indonesian television and website programming.

BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (\$2.5 million)

The financial plan provided \$2.5 million for Broadcasting Capital Improvements as follows:

- \$2.2 million to upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for improved transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. The project was completed and the antenna went on-line November 18, 2006.
- \$.3 million to initiate satellite transmissions of BBG programming to China. The satellite uplink was functional on October 5, 2005.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REPORT ON FY 2005 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
(In millions of dollars)

	Account	Allocation	Obligations as of 11/30/06	Expenditures as of 11/30/06	Unliquidated Obligations	Unobligated Balances Remaining
Broadcasting Board of Governors						
International Broadcasting Operations	95-0206	4.8	4.8	4.4	0.4	-
VOA Broadcasting to Broader Middle East \1		2.8	2.8	2.4	0.4	-
Alhurra Europe \2		2.0	2.0	2.0	-	-
Broadcasting Capital Improvements	95-0204	2.5	2.5	1.7	0.8	-
Improvements to broadcasting directed to Pakistan and People's Republic of China \3		2.5	2.5	1.7	0.8	-
Total		7.3	7.3	6.1	1.2	-

\1 Increase the VOA Persian television program, News and Views to 1 hour daily, initiate a VOA Urdu television program, and enhance affiliate and audience development for VOA Indonesian.

\2 MBN's start up of Alhurra Europe 24/7 television stream.

\3 Upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. Also, initiate direct-to-home satellite transmission to China.

Chapter 5 -- 5.5. Outreach Through Broadcast Media

This section is provided by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).

Broadcasting Board of Governors Initiatives: Outreach to Foreign Muslim Audiences

(Excerpt from the annual report to the Congress, *Country Reports on Terrorism*)

Overview. The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) promotes freedom and democracy and seeks to enhance understanding through the broadcast of accurate, objective news and information about America and the world to foreign audiences. Since September 11, this mission has become more critical in the Muslim world and BBG programming has expanded accordingly. The result of BBG efforts, detailed below, has been to boost audiences in Muslim majority countries or regions from under 15 million five years ago to over 70 million weekly today.

Four of the five broadcast entities under the supervision of the Board – the Voice of America, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia – provide programming for Muslim audiences. From 24-hour broadcasting to large Muslim populations in the Middle East and South Asia, to programs heard by Muslim audiences in Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, and Russian-speaking Central Asia, BBG programs are serving Muslim audiences and U.S. foreign policy goals.

A number of new or expanded broadcasts reflect the continued urgency of the broadcast priorities associated with U.S. counterterrorism efforts. For example, the programs of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (*Radio Sawa* and *Alhurra* Television) are broadcast 24 hours a day in Arabic and reach audiences in 22 countries in the Middle East as well as Europe. In 2007, the agency charted a significant expansion of VOA's *Persian News Network* (PNN) from the previous year, boosting production of Persian language programming from two to seven hours daily. In 2008, PNN continues to broadcast into Iran 24 hours per day, up from only eight daily broadcast hours in 2006. RFE/RL's "Radio Farda" also broadcasts 24/7, rounding out the agency's Persian broadcast strategy by targeting a younger Iranian audience with a mix of music and information programs. The BBG's Arabic and Persian 24/7 broadcast products reach audiences in the broadcast media they prefer – radio, television, and the Internet.

To reflect the nation's critical foreign policy priorities since September 11, 2001, BBG's broadcast resources have shifted from areas of the world where the local media are increasingly free and strong to the Middle East and Central and South Asia. VOA has reduced its broadcasts to Europe, strengthening its focus on Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, and other critical nations. Eighteen of RFE/RL's broadcast languages, almost two-thirds of the total, are directed to countries or regions where the majority populations

are Muslim. RFE/RL broadcasts to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; the majority Muslim populations of Kosovo; and Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and the North Caucasus in the Russian Federation.

The BBG's research indicates that these new programs resonate with audiences and are drawing listeners and viewers, even in environments where listening or seeking access to satellite broadcasts may be illegal. In Iraq, Alhurra Television's audience, with 56% of adults viewing the station weekly, has equaled or surpassed that of Al Jazeera and competes effectively with Al Iraqia, Al Sharqiya, Al Arabiya, and MBC. Telephone surveys conducted in Iran indicate that the BBG's Persian language programming reaches 29 percent of Iranians on a weekly basis. Independent research indicates that these new programs have gained respect and trust since their relatively recent inception.

Programming in other key areas of the Muslim world continues to provide relevant news and information to populations who otherwise might not have access to unbiased reporting on key U.S. government policy statements and reporting on local or international news. VOA's Urdu language service has expanded its broadcasts to Pakistan, and Pashto language broadcasts target the Waziristan region. Both VOA and RFE/RL provide blanket news and information coverage to Afghanistan in the Dari and Pashto languages. RFE/RL is the most popular radio station for news in Afghanistan; Over 56% of Afghan adults now listen to or watch one or more of BBG's various broadcasts for that country at least once a week.

The agency's broadcast strategy focuses on building program reach and impact within the Islamic world with thematic content, which includes facilitating citizen discourse, engaging the world in conversations about America, and helping audiences understand the principles of democratic societies. Technical aspects emphasize enhanced program delivery and employ modern communication techniques. The rigorous use of research about audience and broadcast environments, more frequent program review and oversight, and more compelling broadcast formats that will resonate in competitive but critical international markets remain crucial to this strategy. Underlying these techniques, the journalistic product and integrity remain the same. BBG broadcasters provide accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information as mandated under the U.S. International Broadcasting Act. Through the combined skills of its broadcasters, the BBG is securing a public diplomacy strategy that mirrors U.S. national security priorities and focuses on nations that may suffer from, or contribute to, the growth of terrorism.

During the past year, the agency's extensive journalistic resources reported on the regional political, military, and economic issues facing our listeners, as well as U.S. and international news. The U.S. general and Presidential elections provided a unique

opportunity to showcase the democratic process in action, as well as the smooth transition of power from the Bush Administration to the Obama Administration. BBG correspondents in the United States and around the world contribute to coverage available in 60 languages, providing program perspectives that are often lacking in media outlets abroad. Live, simultaneous interpretation of Congressional hearings, election debates, and Presidential speeches, such as the State of the Union, allow Muslim audiences to hear our nation's official policies, as well as the deliberations that led to the adoption of those policies.

To deliver program content, the agency continues to make aggressive strides in using new technologies, both to combat jamming and to capture new audiences through web and other communications tools. Comprehensive Internet sites are vital tools for each BBG language service, and the use of webchats, blogsites, and other attractive Internet applications have been expanded as the Internet becomes an increasingly viable information medium in both open and closed societies. The Internet offers an exciting transmission opportunity to countries such as Iran, where the BBG's traditional broadcast technologies are jammed or blocked. Through the use of proxy sites and daily emails of news summaries, VOA Persian and Radio Farda bypass the Iranian government's censorship tools. Radio Farda's enhanced website has improved the flow of information to viewers and increased opportunities for interactivity with audiences. A further website design update will allow for improved functionality for Radio Farda in 2009.

Traffic to VOANews.com soared 47 percent from a year earlier to nearly 117 million visits. At least 25 percent of this traffic originated in Iran, while significant segments also came from China, Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Turkey and Russia.

In addition, the agency's aggressive move to increase the use of social media to distribute news and information and to engage audiences in dialogue bodes well for the future. Blogs on Iranian issues, Russian politics, U.S. politics and African music attracted visitors to VOA content, both on VOANews.com and on other sites. New, branded pages on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter offered another means for audiences to find VOA content. On YouTube alone, there have been more than two million views of VOA videos; much of this content was posted by VOA services targeting Muslim audiences. VOA also offers podcasts of audio and video programs on i-Tunes.

VOA created a special U.S. election site in 2008 that attracted traffic from more than 200 countries and resulted in many users joining an online VOA community, where they shared photos, asked questions and provided comments. Large numbers of users originated from China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Turkey, Malaysia, Egypt and Afghanistan.

For Arab audiences, Radio Sawa has an all-news Arabic-language website that communicates with the youthful technologically-savvy population in the Middle East. RadioSawa.com has shown tremendous growth since its inception in spring of 2003. Some of the unique features on the web site include live streaming, recorded audio programs, news update features, and continuous updating of breaking and important news. Other unique features include daily interviews with important newsmakers and Sawa Magazine, a variety journal featuring technology, science, health, movies, and unusual events. In 2008, Alhurra also increased its web presence, by streaming its programming at www.alhurra.com. Additionally, Alhurra archives two months of programming on the website.

However, as the BBG's various Internet platforms continue to grow in popularity, hackers are on the look out for opportunities to exploit infrastructure and security vulnerabilities. In April 2008, RFE/RL Internet sites in Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia and Croatia, as well as Belarus were targeted by a massive distributed denial of service attack (DDOS).

The Middle East

Arabic Broadcasting. To effectively communicate with the large, predominantly young audiences in the Middle East, the BBG launched Radio Sawa, a 24/7 network of stations specifically designed to reach the large segment of the Arabic-speaking population under the age of 35. Radio Sawa went on the air in March 2002, quickly attracting a loyal audience throughout the Middle East as new transmission sites were added throughout the region. In 2008, Radio Sawa continued to broadcast accurate, authoritative, comprehensive, and timely news about the Middle East, the United States, and the world. In addition to 325 newscasts per week, Radio Sawa offers discussion and informational programs such as the popular "Sawa Chat" interactive feature and the "Free Zone," a weekly review and discussion of democracy and freedom as they relate specifically to the Middle East. Feature programs encouraged discussion of key social and political issues in a manner very different from indigenous Arab media.

Radio Sawa broadcasts on FM in Morocco (Rabat, Casablanca, Tangier, Meknes, Marrakesh, Agadir, and Fes), Jordan (Amman and Ajlun), the Palestinian Territories (Ramallah and Jenin), Kuwait (Kuwait City), Bahrain (Manama), Qatar (Doha), U.A.E. (Abu Dhabi and Dubai), Iraq (Baghdad, Nasiriya, Basra, Mosul, Kirkuk, Sulimaniya, Fallujah, Ramadi, Al-Hilla, Tikrit, Amara, Najaf, Samawa, and Erbil), Lebanon (Beirut, North Lebanon, South Lebanon, and Bekaa Valley), and Djibouti.

Radio Sawa expanded its FM coverage in Iraq in 2008 by adding FM transmitters in Fallujah, Ramadi and Tikrit. Radio Sawa also broadcasts on medium wave to Egypt,

Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and throughout Sudan, and is available on Arabsat, Nilesat and Eutelsat satellite systems.

Building on the success of Radio Sawa, the BBG launched Alhurra Television on February 14, 2004, covering 22 countries in the Middle East via the same satellites used by major indigenous Arabic channels. In the five years Alhurra has been broadcasting, it has provided in-depth coverage of historic events, such as elections in the U.S. and in the Middle East and continuing developments in the Middle East peace process, and is a consistent leader in its reporting and analysis on democratic trends in the Middle East, garnering a reputation for comprehensive coverage. At the end of 2008, when fighting broke out in Gaza, Alhurra broadcast live reports from correspondents in Israel and Gaza, extensive breaking news coverage and expert analysis from Washington to provide the American perspective. Through objective and accurate reporting, Alhurra has been an example of a free press to the region and has become a trusted source of news for its estimated 26 million weekly viewers.

Alhurra provides its audience with insights into life in America and the American system of government. It is the only Arabic-language network to have dedicated correspondents at the White House, State Department, the Congress, and the Pentagon. During the 2008 presidential elections, Alhurra provided daily coverage of the candidates and the issues that impact the U.S. election process, presenting a compelling platform for showcasing the political institutions of the United States.

In 2008, Alhurra carried extensive live news coverage of events and speeches by U.S. officials, presenting interviews with President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. The network augments its regular news coverage of the U.S. through its current affairs programs, such as *Inside Washington*, which takes viewers behind the scenes of the political process in Washington with guests such as Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia; Secretary Margaret Spellings; columnist Thomas Friedman; and former White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. Alhurra's program on women's rights, *Musawat* (Equality), came to America to profile five influential and successful women including former Secretary Donna Shalala, American Red Cross Chairman Bonnie McElveen Hunter, and former Chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard, Carly Fiorina.

Alhurra also produces programs that provide a forum for discussion on sensitive issues such as women's rights and human rights. Current affairs programs, such as *Women's Views*, are unique in the region's media. Hosted by four women from different backgrounds, the program airs free discussion on social and political issues that are largely regarded as taboo in the region. Each host brings a different perspective to issues such as sexual harassment, women in prison, discrimination of women, the psychological

impact on women who marry at an early age, and domestic violence against women. Alhurra's *Eye on Democracy* focuses on democratic efforts and human rights concerns throughout the Middle East.

Throughout its five-year history, Alhurra has provided a forum for discussion of important topics by a wide variety of experts and voices of moderation. Its talk shows, roundtables, and documentaries have routinely tackled vital topics that are not addressed on many other stations in the region, including the struggle for human rights, the position of women in Arab society, religious freedom, freedom of the press, and freedom of expression.

Radio Sawa and Alhurra Television now reach a total audience of 35 million adults 15 and older, according to international research firms such as ACNielsen. The surveys show that despite high levels of anti-American sentiment throughout the region, both Alhurra and Radio Sawa are regarded as credible sources of news and information by their audiences.

In September 2008, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks began broadcasting a new all-news and information program to Darfur, "Afia Darfur." The daily 30-minute program focuses on the latest news from Sudan and the plight of displaced people in Darfur and eastern Chad. Broadcasting on shortwave radio, the program includes interviews with American officials, human rights experts, Sudanese experts and NGO representatives. "Afia Darfur" also incorporates interviews with internally displaced people living in Darfur, providing them with an opportunity to speak out about the humanitarian crisis. Additionally, the program addresses how the Western press is covering Darfur; as well as examining the rich history and cultural background of Darfur.

Arabic in Europe. Since August 2006, Alhurra Europe has brought the best programs of Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq to the Arabic-speaking population in Europe. Alhurra Europe can be seen on the Hotbird satellite system that reaches all of Europe.

Iraq

Alhurra Iraq, a dedicated television stream to Iraq containing more concentrated news and information to and about Iraq, began broadcasting in April 2004. Through satellite and terrestrial transmission, Alhurra has gained a strong foothold in one of the most competitive TV marketplaces in the world, becoming a major source of news and information for Iraqis. In 2008, Alhurra-Iraq added another terrestrial channel in Tikrit (channel 33) bringing the total number of terrestrial channels in Iraq to four (including Basra, Baghdad and Mosul.) Alhurra's goal is to help its viewers make educated and informed decisions about political, social, and economic events affecting their lives. During the historic elections in Iraq, Alhurra produced and broadcast the first televised

electoral debate in Iraq's history, featuring six candidates representing the major political parties. This historic debate brought about a candid discussion among the candidates and provided a forum for viewers to compare the various candidates.

RFE/RL's **Radio Free Iraq** (RFI) continues to provide the Iraqi people with breaking news and in-depth coverage of developments in Iraq and the Middle East. Because RFI is a surrogate broadcaster, the Iraqi people see it as "their radio" but with the reliability and reputation of a top-notch western operation. RFI appeals to a wide spectrum of listeners in Iraq by covering the most significant political issues in the country, including daily coverage of the activities of the Iraqi Cabinet and Parliament. RFI's extensive network of freelance reporters, based in the Baghdad bureau, risk their lives to bring objective news to their compatriots. In 2007, two Radio Free Iraq correspondents, Khamail Khalaf and Nazar Abdulwahid Al-Radhi, were slain; a third, Jumana Al-Obaidi, was kidnapped and held for nearly two weeks before being released (her driver was shot and killed during the kidnapping). A September 2007 survey showed listening rates for RFI at a weekly level of 16.6 percent and revealed widespread appreciation of RFI's distinctly Iraqi sound.

This past year, Radio Free Iraq focused on subjects such as efforts to secure and restore order in Basra, Iraq's second largest city; the role of U.S. forces in Iraq; relations with Iraq's neighbors, including Iran, most prominently; and the U.S. presidential election and its meaning for Iraqis. RFI gave ample coverage to the Iraqi political agenda, including reform of the Al-Maliki Cabinet, the relationship between the central government and Kurdistan's Regional Government, debates on Iraqi sovereignty, reform of political institutions, and preparations in the run up to the provincial and local elections scheduled for January 31, 2009. The Service also followed Iraqi cooperation with Turkey to curb PKK activities against the Turkish military from Iraqi territory, and Iraqi government efforts to expel members of the Mujahdeen Khalq Iranian opposition group. In addition, RFI spotlighted various human rights issues such as the rights and role of women, the fate of Iraqi prisoners in neighboring countries, and the rights of journalists. RFI broadcast interviews with numerous top Iraqi officials and politicians, including Interior Ministry Spokesman Abdel Karim Khalaf and Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari amongst others.

In April, RFE/RL analyst Daniel Kimmage released *The Al-Qaeda Media Nexus*, a study on the nexus of ties and coordination between the global network of al-Qaeda affiliates, arguing that the marketing techniques that catapulted Al-Qaeda to worldwide fame are quickly becoming obsolete as user-created content sweeps the Web. The study provided an overview of the hidden structures that disseminate al-Qaeda's claims and ideas, giving readers a conceptual vocabulary to describe this guerilla media network in order to clarify discussion on how best to counteract its influence. "Fight Terror with YouTube", an Op-Ed by Kimmage also appeared in "The New York Times" on June 26, 2008.

Kurdish. Broadcasting four hours of daily radio programming, VOA's Kurdish Service remains highly popular among Kurds in Iraq. According to surveys conducted by InterMedia Research, VOA occupies a unique position among Iraqi Kurds. It is the only major international broadcaster offering programs in the two main Kurdish dialects, Kurmanji and Sorani. VOA Kurdish focuses on the Iraqi scene through a network of stringers, with special programs and call-in shows devoted to combating extremism inside the country and the surrounding region. Special coverage highlighted the debate among Kurds on the role of Islam in the regional and national constitutions of Iraq. Some of the topics discussed in special programming by VOA Kurdish during the last year included the observance of Muslim holidays in the United States, Muslim students in U.S. colleges, and the role of religion in U.S. politics.

Iran

As noted above, broadcasting to Iran remains a key BBG priority. VOA's Persian News Network (PNN) has seen large audience growth with one in four adults, or 29 percent, watching the broadcasts weekly, according to a 2008 survey. The seven-hour television program block opens with *Today in Washington*, a brief look at the latest news developments in Washington. Other original programming includes:

- *Today's Woman*, a one-hour program features influential women from around the world discussing social issues, medical themes, human rights, the law, sports, and business.
- *News and Views*, PNN's 2-hour flagship news program features live interviews and news coverage of the latest headlines from Washington, DC, Iran, and across the globe.
- *Roundtable with You*, a talk show with expert guests who discuss current events, politics, popular culture, and global health. Viewers and listeners from Iran and around the world participate in the show via phone calls and e-mails.
- *Late Edition*, which begins with a close look at the day's top story. This program is targeted to a younger demographic and features segments on Iran's student movement, health, technology, sports, entertainment, and culture.
- *NewsTalk*, a journalists' roundtable discussion program that features an examination of the day's top stories and an in-depth look at issues relating to Iran.

PNN's achievements during 2008 included numerous high-value interviews, extensive on-the-scene coverage of the U.S. Presidential election and an aggressive, expanding use of the PNN website to engage Iranian audiences. Leading the list of luminaries interviewed by PNN was President Bush, who appeared on the flagship show *News and Views* on March 19th to discuss Iran's nuclear program and the economic problems confronting Iranians. He delivered a special message on the occasion of Nowruz, Iran's

New Year. Other key guests included U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and General David Petraeus, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, and exiled Iranian student movement leader and human rights activist Ahmad Batebi.

PNN's reporters deployed to the sites of the U.S. Presidential debates, the Democratic and Republican conventions and to the election night camps of both the Obama and McCain campaigns in Chicago and Phoenix to provide immediate and close perspectives on the race to the White House. Following the election, PNN invited its audience to email its messages for the new President-elect. The hundreds of messages received were posted on PNN's website and shared with the new Transition Team. One emailer wrote of his wish that there was a media outlet in Iran that would enable Iranians to express their joy about the newly-elected President.

Radio Farda. As of July 7, 2008, RFE/RL assumed sole managerial oversight of Radio Farda, continuing 24-hours a day broadcasting to Iran. RFE/RL and the Voice of America had jointly operated Radio Farda since its inception in December 2002. As Radio Farda has matured, and as funding has supported the addition of larger blocks of news and information, it has done so in its tradition as a "surrogate" broadcaster, presenting news about the country to which it broadcasts. Current broadcasts include over eight hours of news and information programming daily. Radio Farda finds direct sources of information within Iran in spite of the challenging environment for journalism.

The people of Iran turned to Radio Farda and its website for round-the-clock breaking news on stories of global interest, such as the ongoing standoff over Iran's nuclear program, including exclusive interviews with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former UN Ambassador John Bolton; Iran's ominous economic climate and rampant unemployment; ongoing persecution of students; and the mistreatment of Azeri, Kurdish, Ahvazi Arab, and other ethnic minority populations of Iran. Radio Farda devoted substantial coverage to the March 14 parliamentary elections in Iran. Before the vote, Farda broadcast a weekly program entitled *Elections Under the Magnifying Glass*; and the program *Fresh Glance* provided Iranian youth with a forum to discuss the elections.

To enhance its program offerings, Radio Farda launched a new roundtable program called *Your Voice is Farda's Voice*. The program invites listeners to discuss a variety of social and political issues, with the goal of increasing interactivity by giving listeners a platform to freely express their views. During the first program, listeners from Tehran, Shiraz, and Kurdistan discussed sanctions and criticized the Iranian government for mismanaging the economy. This summer Radio Farda also launched a new program devoted exclusively to women's issues. The weekly journal *The Other Voice*, not only investigates women's issues from theoretical and historical points of view, but also analyzes current events related to women.

Radio Farda reaches significant audiences in Iran, in spite of the government's consistent jamming. Radio Farda has the highest weekly reach rate – 4.3 percent according to the January 2008 national telephone survey of Iran – of any international radio broadcaster, double that of the BBC's Persian service.

Radio Farda's website continues to show growth. The website has a variety of interactive features including "Question of the Week", most popular and most emailed stories, "Listeners Views", and "Farda Club" for moderated discussions and blogs. It averages close to 3 million page views each month, despite the Iranian government's efforts to block it. The regular use of online forums spark lively discussion. Depending on the question of the week, the number of comments has exceeded 300. One of the more popular topics eliciting strong audience reaction and debate was Dutch producer Geert Wilders's disputed movie "Fitna" which is critical of Islam and the Koran. Farda received 420 audience comments in one week, mostly from inside Iran.

This year Farda also expanded its selection of popular Persian and western music, which draws in the younger audience. On a daily basis, Radio Farda receives anywhere from 50-500 SMS messages. Many of these are listener comments on recent changes to Farda's music offering; some are listener comments with respect to a particular topic; and others are complaints about reception.

Afghanistan

RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan has a weekly reach of 45.7 percent in the country, according to the most recent national survey conducted in August 2008, making it the number one radio station for news in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is the only country in the RFE/RL broadcast region where a U.S. government-funded broadcaster is the dominant media outlet.

Radio Free Afghanistan delivers breaking news, in-depth reporting, and analysis to the people of Afghanistan on the struggles their young democracy faces, including a resurgent Taliban and deteriorating security environment. With its dual-language programming and its tone of moderation, Radio Free Afghanistan works to promote national unity and religious tolerance. In 2008, Radio Free Afghanistan covered an array of domestic, regional, and international news items, including corruption; capital punishment; increased kidnappings; media freedom and government censorship; ongoing reconstruction efforts; female education; the Beijing Olympics where an Afghan won the country's first Olympic medal- a bronze in Taekwondo; and the U.S. Presidential election and its meaning for Afghanistan.

Radio Free Afghanistan provided extensive coverage of the August 22 air strike by forces of the U.S.-led coalition in which more than 90 people in Herat province were killed. Radio Free Afghanistan was the first media outlet in the country to interview an

eyewitness to the attack. Throughout October, Radio Free Afghanistan continued to cover the saga of journalist Sayed Perwiz Kambaksh, who was sentenced to death months ago for distributing an Internet article that questioned Islam's treatment of women. On October 21, an Afghan court commuted the death sentence but ordered Kambaksh to spend 20 years in jail. In November, Radio Free Afghanistan reported on an epidemic of kidnappings in the country. Taliban militants and unaffiliated armed gangs have kidnapped dozens of foreigners (as well as hundreds of Afghans) in the past five years. RFA also gained an exclusive, wide-ranging interview with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who stated he did not support U.S. use of Afghanistan as a base for attack against Iran.

Radio Free Afghanistan not only maintains a close relationship and dialogue with its listeners, but it has impact on the country, reuniting families, providing basic health and hygiene information, and promoting change. It uses the hundreds of letters it receives from listeners to find stories that deserve attention and to spur the government to act on them.

Unfortunately, Radio Free Afghanistan faces an increasingly challenging security environment. Throughout the year, RFA journalists came under growing pressure and threats from elements most often associated with the Taliban. In fall 2008, two journalists were threatened with death and a third was kidnapped and then released.

VOA continues to rank as one of the top three international broadcasters in Afghanistan. As of September 2008, research indicated that 30.5 percent of Afghan adults were listening to or watching VOA programs at least once a week.

In 2008, VOA's Afghanistan TV Broadcast *Ashna* devoted a portion of its presidential election coverage issues affecting Muslim American voters, such as the economy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and tensions in the Mideast. Correspondents interviewed Muslims at political rallies, and followed Afghan-Americans who volunteered for the Barack Obama campaign. The program also included interviews with prominent Muslim-American voices, including Rep. Keith Ellison, in addition to a profile of an Afghan-American family voting for the first time. In addition, the program included an interview with First Lady Laura Bush on Afghanistan, and aired an original documentary on the Afghan drug trade.

VOA's Afghanistan radio also focused on issues relating to Islam and human rights. Participants in live talk shows included Mawlawi Abdul Qadir and Aminudin Saeedi, leading Afghan Islamic scholars. VOA's radio programs also examined the Taliban policy of burning of schools and text books, focusing on the issue with leading Islamic scholars and Afghan analysts. Highlighted in the series were Dr. Alam Payind, head of the Middle East Department of the Ohio University and Raj Wali Khatak, a well known Afghan author.

Pakistan

Pakistan saw a fragile return to democracy in 2008 after years of rule under General Pervez Musharraf. February elections brought to power the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP). By September, President Musharraf – under threat of impeachment – resigned and PPP head and widow of Benazir Bhutto – Asif Ali Zardari – took his place.

During this year of transition, media restrictions imposed by Musharraf in 2007 were eased and VOA Urdu Television went back on the air in April with its two private affiliates: GEO and Aaj. VOA's TV presence was further advanced when the Urdu Service joined with Pakistan's state broadcaster PTV, available to 90 percent of the population, for special live coverage of the three U.S. presidential debates.

Independent research from 2008 indicates that VOA's weekly audience reach has doubled to more than 11 percent of the adult population. VOA Urdu's 12/7 *Radio Aap ki Duniya* (*Your World*) daily MW program doubled its reach to Pakistan with a new, faster-paced news format. VOA also doubled traffic to the website: [www. Urduvoa.com](http://www.Urduvoa.com), which includes a polling function and runs contests to attract younger audiences.

VOA Urdu and PTV broadcast 14 hours of live TV coverage in Urdu and English on Election Night 2008, covering the historic election of Barack Obama as President. The PTV Chairman at the time said these broadcasts helped PTV dominate coverage among other private broadcasters and was well received in Pakistan's restive tribal areas.

A new programming venture was a new half-hour weekly television and web-based show, *Muslims' America*. The weekly 30-minute show, in English and Urdu, profiles American Muslims in all walks of life, tackles myths and realities of American life and focuses on the subjects' positive contributions. Comments from viewers in Pakistan and elsewhere in the world were overwhelmingly positive about the first 12-episodes, which appeared on Pakistan's number one rated private cable news channel, Geo, as well as Aaj TV, VOA's Urdu website, YouTube and Facebook.

In 2008, VOA Urdu attracted new audiences by creating an Urdu Service YouTube channel, providing content on Facebook, Veoh and others platforms, as well as writing a blog for university-aged students in Pakistan. The blog is linked to a popular VOA Urdu TV segment called *Campus*, which follows the experience of four VOA Urdu reporters who are also attending college in the United States.

The Pakistan/Afghanistan Border Region

VOA's Deewa Radio (Light) —a broadcast stream aimed at the more than 40 million Pashto-speaking people living in the volatile Afghanistan-Pakistan border region—offers local, regional, U.S., and international news, as well as features on politics, illegal drug and narcotics trafficking, the economy, health, education, and sports. With a network of more than 20 stringers in the target region, the service covers the fast-moving developments on the ground, including recent military operations in the volatile Swat region and in North and South Waziristan.

Radio Deewa's two daily, live call-in shows attract about 300 calls a day, scores of e-mails and voice messages. Program topics included suicide bombings, school burnings and discussions of religious moderation. In addition, Deewa has interviewed current federal ministers, provincial ministers, NWFP officials, party leaders, members of parliament, and experts on regional politics such as Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister. Deewa's audiences benefit from wide-ranging interviews with Islamic scholars, human rights activists, members of the U.S. Congress, State Department officials and regional experts, providing new insights and perspectives to the region.

India. VOA Hindi TV, with a broadcast affiliation with India's Zee TV, reaches the country's large Muslim population of nearly 150 million. The Hindi Service presents discussions about events in Pakistan and Kashmir, India-Pakistan peace initiatives, Iran's nuclear ambitions, developments in Afghanistan, and the Iraq war. Hindi TV broadcasts five days a week via Zee TV, offering exclusive interviews with U.S. government senior officials, Muslim-American leaders and scholars and provided extensive coverage to Mumbai attacks and other major developments in the region and India's relations with Iran, Pakistan, and the United States.

Bangladesh. Bangladesh has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world. During the past year, VOA Bangla produced numerous radio and television features on Muslim youth, Islamic centers in the United States, and other topics of interest. In addition, the Service broadcast call-in shows on Muslim celebrations in the U.S. at the end of the fast of Ramadan. VOA Bangla Service also conducted many interviews with U.S. officials and experts, and provided comprehensive coverage of elections in the U.S. and Bangladesh.

Turkish. Throughout 2008, VOA's Turkish Service focused on the role of Islam in politics under the strictly secular Turkish constitution. Coverage included Turkey's mediation efforts between Syria and Israel and the United States and Iran. Interviews included U.S. and Turkish officials, President Abdullah Gul, members of the U.S. Congress, and other experts. In addition to its extensive multimedia coverage of the U.S. presidential elections, VOA Turkish prepared programs and reports on the role of religion in the U.S. for radio, television and the Internet.

This year, VOA Turkish expanded its TV affiliation in Turkey by launching daily, live web cam reports for the TGRT News TV network. TGRT News, a 24-hour nationwide news network with a weekly audience share of over 30 percent of Turkey's estimated 25 million regular viewers, now carries live a 15-minute VOA Turkish news and current affairs program three times a week, in addition to a weekly VOA 30-minute news and magazine program. At the request of TGRT, VOA also produced a number of live and special programs on the U.S. presidential elections.

Indonesia. VOA's weekly audience in Indonesia has increased this year to 17.5 percent, or more than 25 million people, thanks in particular to the placement of short program segments on popular local television stations. VOA Indonesian TV products can now be regularly seen on seven of Indonesia's 11 national TV stations, in addition to more than 20 local and regional stations. During the fasting month of Ramadan, VOA produced a special series of 12 stories on Islam in the United States, which were carried by national stations. VOA Indonesian also produces eight hours daily of original radio programming for a network of more than 230 affiliate FM and medium wave stations across the country. Radio programming includes five-minute *Headline News* reports, which are aired 32 times a day, seven days a week.

Central Asia

BBG's programming to Central Asia (RFE/RL to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; VOA to Uzbekistan) continued despite increased harassment and repression against its correspondents and editors, and new challenges to delivering programs to audiences.

Uzbekistan. Uzbek authorities stepped up its attacks on RFE/RL's Uzbek Service in June when state-owned television accused RFE/RL journalists of "anti-state activities" and broadcast personal information about them, including the names of their children and other family members, photographs, passport information, addresses, and places of work. Operating in conditions reminiscent of the Soviet era, RFE/RL's Uzbek Service continued to provide news coverage and democracy promotion.

VOA's daily 30-minute radio broadcasts are carried on shortwave and medium wave from Tajikistan. In 2008, under pressure from the government of Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz government banned two FM stations in Osh and Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan, from rebroadcasting VOA Uzbek programs. Under similar pressures, Ayna TV, the VOA Uzbek affiliate in neighboring Afghanistan stopped broadcasting the weekly VOA Uzbek TV program, *Exploring America*. Currently, this program is carried by Keremet TV in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, where a large ethnic Uzbek community lives. Some viewers in Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley region are able to watch this broadcast. VOA Uzbek

features interviews with various U.S. and international sources discussing critical issues, such as the fight against terrorism, religious extremism, and U.S.-Uzbek relations. Interviews with Members of Congress and key officials provide a unique perspective on U.S. policymaking. The Service also features reporting on Muslim life in the United States and serves as a window into religious tolerance and understanding in America. In order to expand VOA's reach, the Uzbek Service launched *uzmobil.com*, distributing VOA news to mobile phone subscribers in Uzbekistan, the largest Muslim country in former Soviet Central Asia.

Tajikistan. In Tajikistan, RFE/RL's Tajik-language Service "Radio Ozodi" is the largest independent media outlet in the country and top international broadcaster. The Tajik government has repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction with RFE/RL's coverage of local political, economic and social issues. The Service's website has become one of the best content-oriented Tajik-language sites. Ozodi forum and Ozodi polling are popular among users and attract hundreds of comments.

Kyrgyzstan. RFE/RL's popular Kyrgyz-language Service was dealt a major setback when state authorities pulled the plug on RFE/RL radio and TV programming in October 2008. Kyrgyz authorities have stated that RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service will not be restored to the airwaves unless its programs are submitted to the government for prior approval. According to the most recent national survey, the Service's unduplicated weekly reach on radio and TV was 33.8% of the population.

Kazakhstan. As of September 1, 2008, RFE/RL's Kazakh Service transitioned to an Internet platform, continuing radio programming for one hour in the evening and one hour repeat in the morning. The Kazakh Service launched a bi-lingual (Kazakh and Russian) site in summer 2008. Within the first month, visits increased by 270 %; page views were up by 540% and average time spent on site grew by almost 300%. This strategy has proved successful. The Service received two national Internet awards from Award.kz for best Kazakh-language site and best new media site. The competition was independent and involved over 1000 websites.

Turkmenistan. RFE/RL, which is barred from having a bureau and accredited domestic correspondents, reported on government harassment of civil society and independent journalists in the run up to the country's Parliamentary election.

Balkans and Caucasus

Bosnia and Herzegovina. VOA broadcasts to Bosnia and Herzegovina include programming targeted to the half of the population that are Bosnian Muslims. Bosnia still has yet to recover from the devastating ethnic and religious conflict of the 1990s.

There have been persistent reports of Islamic militant influence and activity in Bosnia. Meanwhile, anti-Americanism is on the rise in Bosnia.

VOA's Bosnian Service broadcasts a 30-minute live, daily news and current affairs television show, which is tailored to address concerns of the Muslim population in Bosnia and provides exclusive interviews with Bosnian politicians and moderate Muslim religious leaders. VOA Bosnian programs explain U.S. policy on topics such as the war against terrorism, and focus on a variety of Bosnian issues, including the dangers radical Islamic groups pose to the country. In addition, the Service produces a weekly interactive TV program that airs Sundays during a prime time news program on BHT1, Bosnia's public broadcaster. The Sarajevo-based BHT1 network is internationally funded and is the only station that reaches audiences in both the Bosnian-Croat Federation and Republika Srpska. VOA's programs are also aired by 15 television affiliate stations throughout Bosnia, and are available via satellite. The Bosnian Service is also working to significantly enhance the content, functionality and design of its website to complement its popular TV broadcasts.

RFE/RL's South Slavic and Albanian Languages Service continued to fulfill a unique role in the Balkans with its regional programming. With bureaus in Belgrade and Pristina, the Service provided extensive coverage of events and analysis surrounding Kosovo independence and its impact in the region and beyond. Programming stressing the bonds among the peoples of the former Yugoslavia regularly reached Muslim listeners in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Service broadcasts two popular thirty-minute television programs in Bosnia, *TV Liberty* and *Open Parliament*.

Azerbaijan. RFE/RL and VOA both continue to broadcast in Azerbaijan despite government efforts to remove them from domestic distribution outlets. VOA's Azerbaijani Service provides extensive coverage on Muslims in America, including special programs on the occasion of Muslim holidays, featuring messages of congratulation by the President of the United States, Administration officials, and Congressional leaders. Until late December 2008 the Azerbaijani broadcasts of VOA and RFE/RL reached radio audiences in and around Baku, the capital, via a local 24/7 dedicated FM frequency. However, the government of Azerbaijan revoked the BBG's license to broadcast from within the country as of January 1, 2009, and all RFE/RL and VOA AM, FM and TV transmissions from within the country ceased as of that date.

The Azerbaijani government claims the decision was made in order to be consistent with European and international standards. Several years ago, in November 2006, the government of Azerbaijan had shut down the BBG's affiliate station, ANS, which ended local rebroadcasting of both RFE/RL and VOA radio and television programs. The radio license now being revoked had been offered as a compromise solution. Since then,

RFE/RL and VOA have reached substantial audiences within the country on the FM station. With current transmission limited, audience numbers are expected to decline. Now, VOA and RFE/RL Azerbaijani radio programs can only be heard via shortwave and satellite transmission, and accessed via the Internet.

VOA's Azerbaijani Service produces a daily 30-minute radio show and a 15-minute TV news program, six days per week. VOA Azerbaijani also produces a weekly 15-minute radio program and maintains a special page on its website focusing on the developments in Iranian Azerbaijan where a large Azeri-speaking minority lives (estimated at more than 15 million). RFE/RL programming remains a mix of newscasts and democracy-related programming on political issues and civil society such as human rights, media rights, minorities, judicial rights, religion, and elections. Social issues of health care, pensions, public welfare, unemployment, and drugs increasingly became programming themes.

In light of recent developments, RFE/RL is focusing efforts on its Website and Internet radio stream. Programming includes a variety of topics, including but not limited to major domestic, regional, and international news, oil politics, corruption, attacks on the media, and social issues.

The Russian Federation

Tatarstan/Bashkortostan. RFE/RL's Radio Azatliq is the only major international broadcaster in the Tatar and Bashkir languages, providing listeners with objective news and information not available from Russian media. The Service's newly designed website, launched in November 2007, has shown steady growth. Since May 2008, page views increased by 70 percent.

North Caucasus. The North Caucasus continues to be politically unstable and there is an ongoing risk of outbreaks of violence. The media environments are limited, with few sources of independent news and information available in the region regardless of language. RFE/RL remains the only international broadcaster providing content targeted at the region in three local languages – Avar, Chechen and Circassian – since 2002.

Africa

Nigeria. VOA has strong audiences in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with about 73 million Muslims. The Hausa and the English-to-Africa services have a weekly audience of 21 million. Some 47 percent of the Hausa-speaking population of Nigeria listen to VOA at least once a week. The Hausa service, aimed primarily at the country's

Northern region, covered violent clashes between Muslims and Christians in the northern state of Jos that broke out after local elections in late November of 2008. VOA's coverage included on-the-scene stringer reports, as well as interviews with witnesses, victims and Nigerian government and security officials. The Service provided extensive analysis of the sectarian conflict, interviewed religious and ethnic leaders who appealed for calm, interviewed the governor and organized a panel discussion with members of opposing factions.

In October 2008, VOA staff traveled to northern Nigeria to organize and cover Town Hall meetings in Kaduna and Bauchi which attracted more than 4,000 people. The Town Halls, focusing on health issues, were covered by, among others, the Nigerian Television Authority's national network, BBC, Deutsche Welle, Radio France International and four Nigerian national dailies.

Somalia. In its second year of broadcasting, VOA's Somali Service covered the continuing conflict in Somalia and efforts to find a negotiated peace agreement between the transitional government and an Islamic insurgency. Research in 2008 showed more than 66 percent of adults in Mogadishu, the capital, listened to VOA. The service also covered the growing threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The VOA Somali Service spoke with all protagonists of a political crisis that resulted in the resignation of Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf on December 29. Interviews included Mr. Yusuf; Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein, who had opposed the president over the naming of a cabinet; and House Speaker Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur, Somalia's current Acting President. Also interviewed was Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, head of the Somali opposition group Alliance of Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS). In addition, the Service also spoke with Senator Russ Feingold, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs during the lawmaker's visit to Djibouti on December 13.

Ethiopia and Eritrea. VOA's Horn of Africa Service broadcasts 17 hours a week in the evenings in three languages: seven 60-minute broadcasts in Amharic, five 30-minute broadcasts in Tigrigna and five 30-minute broadcasts in Afan Oromo. These VOA broadcasts, which have the potential to reach more than 35 million Muslims in Ethiopia and Eritrea, provide uncensored reporting of ethnic clashes and conflict resolution.

Swahili. VOA's Swahili Service has strong listenership in Tanzania and Kenya, home to more than 15 million Muslims. VOA's audience is more than 23 percent of adults in Tanzania, where more than 35 percent of the country's 40 million people are Muslim. On March 16, 2008, VOA Swahili expanded its broadcasts to two hours each weekday, and one hour on Saturdays and Sundays. In 2008, there was a huge demand for news and

information about the U.S. election which led to victory for Barack Obama, whose father was a Kenyan.

French to Africa. VOA's French to Africa Service broadcasts to the 250 million French speakers in Africa, many of whom live in predominantly Muslim countries such as Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. The Service broadcasts 23 hours weekly on radio via shortwave and to an array of affiliates across the region. It also broadcasts a 30-minute weekly television program.

China

Radio Free Asia (RFA) provides service to Muslim audiences through its Uyghur language service launched in December 1998. It is the only international radio service providing impartial news and information in the Uyghur language to the potential audience of more than 16 million Uyghur Muslims in Western China and Central Eurasia. The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) alone comprises roughly one-sixth of China's territory and is estimated to have more than 10 million Uyghur speakers.

Consistent with RFA's mandate, the Uyghur service acts as a substitute for indigenous media reporting on local events in the region. The service broadcasts two hours daily, seven days a week, often breaking stories that go unreported by China's state-run media or foreign news organizations. RFA provides a forum for a variety of opinions and voices from within the XUAR with its programs that include breaking news, analysis, interviews, commentary, a hotline call-in show, a weekly news review, and feature stories.

The Uyghur Service news and stories feature important interviews with various U.S. and international sources, including officials, scholars, scientists, artists, historians, educators, and human rights activists, as well as Chinese and Uyghur dissidents from all over the world. Programs address pressing issues like China's relationship with Central Asian countries, democratic development in Central Asia, Uyghur history, literature, the arts, human rights, religious freedom, labor issues, official corruption, the environment, Internet control in China, and AIDS and other health issues. Additionally, RFA brings U.S. policy, debate, and Congressional resolutions on China to its listeners via interviews with members of Congress and other policymakers. This past year, the RFA Uyghur service was the first to report on the executions of two Uyghurs accused of terrorism, broke the news of an impending forced abortion in Gulja, and chronicled the systematic tightening of Uyghur political and religious activities in the lead up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. These stories, among many more, were picked up by the New York Times, Time Magazine, ABC News, AP, Reuters and other international media outlets.

RFA's Uyghur service website, launched in September 2004, provides continuously updated news in all three writing systems used to convey the Uyghur language: Arabic, Latin, and Cyrillic. RFA's site is the only non-Chinese Uyghur news website and the only Unicode Uyghur news website. The site streams the daily RFA broadcast in Uyghur and offers ongoing coverage of events in the XUAR in text, image, and video. The archived audio files can be retrieved on a special page or downloaded via podcast. RSS feeds are also available, making it possible for people to automatically update their news readers or web pages with RFA news content.

RFA continues to be confronted with unrelenting jamming of broadcasts and blocking of its website. RFA confronts Chinese censorship by broadcasting on multiple short-wave frequencies and by regularly e-mailing instructions on accessing the banned www.rfa.org through proxy web servers. Despite Chinese censorship and the dangers involved, research indicates that Uyghur listeners and web users consider RFA a lifeline in a controlled media environment – a station offering unique content worth taking risks to access. The Uyghur Service received the 2005 Edward R. Murrow Regional Award for outstanding achievements in electronic journalism.

Transmission. Since September 11, 2001, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) has modernized its transmission capabilities, continuing its move from a predominantly shortwave environment to one that uses AM, FM, satellite, and Internet capabilities to reach its audience. By bolstering transmission capabilities to the Muslim world, BBG has improved opportunities to deliver news and information clearly, reliably, and effectively. New transmission capabilities have been added, and assets reallocated from regions of lesser geopolitical importance and from technologies of declining effectiveness.

The BBG has worked to ensure that programming is delivered in the media that are most effective in reaching local populations. In the past year, shortwave transmission facilities in Morocco were closed to shift available resources to more effective delivery media. An emergency back-up power system was installed at the Kabul medium wave transmitting facility to overcome erratic local electricity supply problems and to ensure more reliable delivery of BBG medium wave programs to audiences in Afghanistan. Back up generators are also being installed at BBG FM stations in Afghanistan. In the past year, a new BBG TV transmitter and two new BBG FM transmitter systems came on the air in cities in Iraq. Arrangements are being made to establish FM transmitters in Somalia at Hargeysa and on cell phone towers at other key locations in the country. Shortwave transmissions were added to support a new half hour news and information program in Arabic for audiences in Sudan. Arrangements are being made with the Government of Kuwait to share shortwave transmitters, and ongoing meetings with the Directors General of various other international broadcasters are leading to other economical arrangements to share transmission resources.

The BBG is currently supporting the construction of a number of additional FM transmitters in various locations and two high power medium wave radio transmitters that should come on the air in the coming year: one medium wave transmitter for Pashto programming in Afghanistan is nearing completion, and one for Radio Farda programs to Iran is under construction.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU



September 30, 2008

The Honorable James Nussle
Director
Office of Management and Budget

Dear Mr. Nussle:

This letter and its attachments constitute the annual Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and agency privacy management report for the Broadcasting Board of Governor's which I am submitting in accordance with the instructions contained in OMB Circular M-08-21 of July 14, 2008. I have determined that the agency's information security and privacy policies, procedures and practices are substantively adequate and effective, but that they do not yet fully comply with the applicable statutory provisions and implementing regulations and, accordingly, I have directed the agency's technical staff to continue to allocate staff time and funding, as appropriate, to bring the agency into full compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danforth W. Austin", written over a horizontal line.

Danforth W. Austin
Acting Deputy Director

Enclosures:

1. Agency Report, Sections B and D, September 2008
2. OIG Section C, September 2008
3. BBG Privacy Breach Notification Policy, August 2008
4. BBG Plan to Eliminate Unnecessary Use of Social Security Numbers, August 2008
5. BBG Plan to Review and Reduce the Volume of Personally Identifiable Information, August 2008
6. BBG Rules of Behavior for Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information, August 2008
7. Progress Report for BBG Plans to Eliminate Use of Social Security Numbers and to Review and Reduce the Volume of Personally Identifiable Information, September 2008

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 1 and 2

Agency Name: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Submission date: Oct. 1, 2008

Question 1: FISMA Systems Inventory

1. In the table below, identify the number of agency and contractor information systems by component/bureau and FIPS 199 system impact level (high, moderate, low, or not categorized). Extend the worksheet onto subsequent pages if necessary to include all Component/Bureaus.

Agency systems shall include information systems used or operated by an agency. Contractor systems shall include information systems used or operated by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency. The total number of systems shall include both agency systems and contractor systems.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring the security of information systems used by a contractor of their agency or other organization on behalf of their agency; therefore, self reporting by contractors does not meet the requirements of law. Self-reporting by another Federal agency, for example, a Federal service provider, may be sufficient. Agencies and service providers have a shared responsibility for FISMA compliance.

Question 2: Certification and Accreditation, Security Controls Testing, and Contingency Plan Testing

2. For the Total Number of Systems identified by Component/Bureau and FIPS System Impact Level in the table for Question 1, identify the number and percentage of systems which have: a current certification and accreditation, security controls tested and reviewed within the past year, and a contingency plan tested within in accordance with policy.

		Question 1			Question 2					
		a. Agency Systems	b. Contractor Systems	c. Total Number of Systems (Agency and Contractor systems)	a. Number of systems certified and accredited		b. Number of systems for which security controls have been tested and reviewed in the past year		c. Number of systems for which contingency plans have been tested in accordance with policy	
Bureau Name	FIPS 199 System Impact Level	Number	Number	Total Number	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total
BBG	High	0	0	0						
	Moderate	6	0	6	1	17%	1	17%	6	100%
	Low	4	4	8	0	0%	0	0%	8	100%
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	10	4	14	1	7%	1	7%	14	100%
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Component/Bureau	High			0						
	Moderate			0						
	Low			0						
	Not Categorized			0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Agency Totals	High	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	Moderate	6	0	6	1	17%	1	17%	6	100%
	Low	4	4	8	0	0%	0	0%	8	100%
	Not Categorized	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	Total	10	4	14	1	7%	1	7%	14	100%

= Data Entry Cells

= Editable Calculations (no Data Entry-ONLY edit Formulas when necessary)

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 1 and 2 (continued)

Agency Name: Broadcasting Board of Governors

1.d. If there are systems which have not yet been categorized by system impact level, or, if a system impact level was determined through another method, please explain:

2.d. If the number of systems with full certification and accreditation is higher than the number of systems with a tested contingency plan, please explain:

2.e. For all systems reported as not having a C&A (Question 2.a. percentage is less than 100%), please identify the system by Component/Bureau, the system impact level, and the Unique Project Identifier (UPI) associated with the system as presented in your Budget Year 2010 Exhibit 53. Extend the table as necessary to include all systems without a C&A.

[illegible]

Total Number of Systems without a C&A:	13
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= Data Entry Cell

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 3 and 4**Agency Name:** Broadcasting Board of Governors**Question 3: Implementation of Security Controls in NIST Special Publication 800-53**

3a. Has the organization developed policies and corresponding procedures to cover all NIST SP 800-53 control families, and associated 800-53 security controls? Yes or No. Yes

3.b. Please describe your annual testing and continuous monitoring process:
Annual independent review sufficient to support recertification; annual vulnerability testing

Question 4: Incident Detection, Monitoring, and Response Capabilities

4.a. What tools, techniques, technologies, etc., does the agency use for incident detection?

Network monitoring software, intrusion detection software, system logs

4.b. How many systems (or networks of systems) are protected using the tools, techniques and technologies described in 4 (a) above? 14

4.c. Does the agency log and monitor activities involving access to and modification of sensitive or critical information? Yes or No. No

4.d. What percentage of systems maintain audit trails that provide a trace of user actions? 0.00%

4.e. Does the agency maintain an incident handling and response capability? Yes or No. Yes

4.f. If the answer to 4 (e) is yes, what percentage of systems are operated within the agency's incident handling and response capability? 100.00%

4.g. What tools, techniques, technologies, etc. does the agency use for incident handling and response?

Hierarchical reporting procedure

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 5 and 6

Agency Name: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Question 5: Security Awareness Training

5.a. Has the agency ensured security awareness training of all employees, including contractors and those employees with significant IT security responsibilities? Yes or No. Yes

5.b. Report the following for your agency:

b.1.	b.2.		b.3.	b.4.	b.5.		b.6.
Total number of employees (including contractors)	Number of employees and contractors that received information security awareness training during the past fiscal year, as described in NIST Special Publication 800-50, "Building an Information Technology Security Awareness and Training Program" (October 2003)		Number of employees and contractors that received information security awareness training using an ISSLOB shared service center. (breakout of total for b)	Total number of employees with significant information security responsibilities	Number of employees with significant security responsibilities that received specialized training, as described in NIST Special Publication 800-16, "Information Technology Security Training Requirements: A Role- and Performance-Based Model" (April 1998)		Total costs for providing information security training in the past fiscal year (in \$'s)
	Number	Percentage	Number		Number	Percentage	
3460	1757	51%	0%	13	6	46%	\$ 9,300

5.c. Briefly describe the training provided in 5.b.2. and 5.b.5 and how you measure its effectiveness.
On-line training on agency policies and procedures for end-users; industrial technical training for IT staff

Question 6: Peer-to-Peer file sharing

Does the agency explain policies regarding the use of collaborative web technologies and peer-to-peer file sharing in information security awareness training, ethics training, or any other agency-wide training? Yes or No. No

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 7**Question 7: Configuration Management**

7.a.	Is there an agency wide security configuration policy? Yes or No.	Yes
7.b.	Approximate the extent to which applicable systems implement common security configurations including use of common security configurations available from the National Institute of Standards and Technology's website at http://checklists.nist.gov. Response categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rarely- for example, approximately 0-50% of the time- Sometimes- for example, approximately 51-70% of the time- Frequently- for example, approximately 71-80% of the time- Mostly- for example, approximately 81-95% of the time- Almost Always- for example, approximately 96-100% of the time	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
7.c.	Indicate which aspects of Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) have been implemented as of this report:	
	c.1. Agency has adopted and implemented FDCC standard configurations and has documented deviations. Yes or No.	Yes
	c.2 New Federal Acquisition Regulation 2007-004 language, which modified "Part 39—Acquisition of Information Technology", is included in all contracts related to common security settings. Yes or No.	No
	c.3 All Windows XP and VISTA computing systems have implemented the FDCC security settings. Yes or No.	No

Section B - Chief Information Officer: Questions 8, 9, and 10**Agency Name:** Broadcasting Board of Governors**Question 8: Incident Reporting**

Indicate whether or not the agency follows documented policies and procedures for reporting incidents internally, to US-CERT, and to law enforcement. If appropriate or necessary, include comments in the area provided below.

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 8.a. | The agency follows documented policies and procedures for identifying and reporting incidents internally. Yes or No. | Yes |
| 8.b. | The agency follows documented policies and procedures for external reporting to US-CERT. Yes or No. (http://www.us-cert.gov) | Yes |
| 8.c. | The agency follows documented policies and procedures for reporting to law enforcement. Yes or No. | Yes |

Comments:

Question 9: New Technologies and Emerging Threats

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 9.a. | Has the agency documented in its security policies, special procedures for using emerging technologies (including but not limited to wireless and IPv6) and countering emerging threats (including but not limited to spyware, malware, etc.)? Yes or No. | Yes |
|------|---|-----|

- 9.b. If the answer to 9a. is "Yes," briefly describe the documented procedures. These special procedures could include more frequent control tests & evaluations, specific configuration requirements, additional monitoring, or specialized training.

Frequent evaluations, configuration requirements, additional monitoring

Question 10: Performance Metrics for Security Policies and Procedures

Please provide three (3) outcome/output-based performance metrics your agency uses to measure the effectiveness or efficiency of security policies and procedures. The metrics must be different than the ones used in these FISMA reporting instructions, and can be tailored from NIST's Special Publication 800-55 "Performance Measurement Guide for Information Security."

Performance Metric Name	Description
Specialized Security Training	Proportion eligible employees receiving security training
Certification and Accreditation	Proportion new systems with C&A prior to production use
Operating System Vulnerabilities	Proportion OS instances without known vulnerabilities

Section C - Inspector General: Questions 1 and 2

Agency Name: **Broadcasting Board of Governors** Submission date: **October 1, 2008**

Question 1: FISMA Systems Inventory

1. As required in FISMA, the IG shall evaluate a representative subset of systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency.

In the table below, identify the number of agency and contractor information systems, and the number reviewed, by component/bureau and FIPS 199 system impact level (high, moderate, low, or not categorized). Extend the worksheet onto subsequent pages if necessary to include all Component/Bureaus.

Agency systems shall include information systems used or operated by an agency. Contractor systems shall include information systems used or operated by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency. The total number of systems shall include both agency systems and contractor systems.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring the security of information systems used by a contractor of their agency or other organization on behalf of their agency; therefore, self reporting by contractors does not meet the requirements of law. Self-reporting by another Federal agency, for example, a Federal service provider, may be sufficient. Agencies and service providers have a shared responsibility for FISMA compliance.

Question 2: Certification and Accreditation, Security Controls Testing, and Contingency Plan Testing

2. For the Total Number of Systems reviewed by Component/Bureau and FIPS System Impact Level in the table for Question 1, identify the number and percentage of systems which have: a current certification and accreditation, security controls tested and reviewed within the past year, and a contingency plan tested in accordance with policy.

		Question 1						Question 2					
		a. Agency Systems		b. Contractor Systems		c. Total Number of Systems (Agency and Contractor systems)		a. Number of systems certified and accredited		b. Number of systems for which security controls have been tested and reviewed in the past year		c. Number of systems for which contingency plans have been tested in accordance with policy	
Bureau Name	FIPS 199 System Impact Level	Number	Number Reviewed	Number	Number Reviewed	Total Number	Total Number Reviewed	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total
International Bureau of Broadcasting (IBB)	High					0	0						
	Moderate	6	6			6	6	1	17%	1	17%	1	17%
	Low	4	4	4	4	8	8		0%		0%		0%
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	10	10	4	4	14	14	1	7%	1	7%	1	7%
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	High					0	0						
	Moderate					0	0						
	Low					0	0						
	Not Categorized					0	0						
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Agency Totals	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	Moderate	6	6	0	0	6	6	1	17%	1	17%	1	17%
	Low	4	4	4	4	8	8	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Not Categorized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	
	Total	10	10	4	4	14	14	1	7%	1	7%	1	7%

= Data Entry Cells

= Editable Calculations (no Data Entry-ONLY edit Formulas when necessary)

Comments:

Agency Name:	Broadcasting Board of Governors
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3.a.

3.b.

3.c.

3.d.

3.e.

Yes

3.f.

Number of known systems missing from inventory:

= Data Entry Cells

Section C - Inspector General: Questions 4 and 5

Agency Name: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Question 4: Evaluation of Agency Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) Process

Assess whether the agency has developed, implemented, and is managing an agency-wide plan of action and milestones (POA&M) process. Evaluate the degree to which each statement reflects the status in your agency by choosing from the responses provided. If appropriate or necessary, include comments in the area provided.

For each statement in Items 4.a. through 4.f., select the response category that best reflects the agency's status.

Response Categories:

- Rarely- for example, approximately 0-50% of the time
- Sometimes- for example, approximately 51-70% of the time
- Frequently- for example, approximately 71-80% of the time
- Mostly- for example, approximately 81-95% of the time
- Almost Always- for example, approximately 96-100% of the time

4.a.	The POA&M is an agency-wide process, incorporating all known IT security weaknesses associated with information systems used or operated by the agency or by a contractor of the agency or other organization on behalf of the agency.	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
4.b.	When an IT security weakness is identified, program officials (including CIOs, if they own or operate a system) develop, implement, and manage POA&Ms for their system(s).	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
4.c.	Program officials and contractors report their progress on security weakness remediation to the CIO on a regular basis (at least quarterly).	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
4.d.	Agency CIO centrally tracks, maintains, and reviews POA&M activities on at least a quarterly basis.	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
4.e.	IG findings are incorporated into the POA&M process.	Rarely (0-50% of the time)
4.f.	POA&M process prioritizes IT security weaknesses to help ensure significant IT security weaknesses are addressed in a timely manner and receive appropriate resources.	Rarely (0-50% of the time)

Comments: BBG had completed certification and accreditation for only one of its 14 systems, the Central Infrastructure Domain. As a result, BBG completed only 1 POA&M for this FISMA reporting cycle. The POA&M addressed weaknesses for BBG's largest system and prioritized resources accordingly. The POA&M contained all OMB-required elements but needed more detail addressing milestone changes.

Question 5: IG Assessment of the Certification and Accreditation Process

Provide a qualitative assessment of the agency's certification and accreditation process, including adherence to existing policy, guidance, and standards. Provide narrative comments as appropriate.

Agencies shall follow NIST Special Publication 800-37, "Guide for the Security Certification and Accreditation of Federal Information Systems" (May 2004) for certification and accreditation work initiated after May 2004. This includes use of the FIPS 199, "Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems" (February 2004) to determine a system impact level, as well as associated NIST document used as guidance for completing risk assessments and security plans.

5.a.	<p>The IG rates the overall quality of the Agency's certification and accreditation process as:</p> <p>Response Categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excellent- Good- Satisfactory- Poor- Failing	Failing																
5.b.	<p>The IG's quality rating included or considered the following aspects of the C&A process: (check all that apply)</p> <table><tr><td>Security plan</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>System impact level</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>System test and evaluation</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Security control testing</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Incident handling</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Security awareness training</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Configurations/patching</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Other:</td><td></td></tr></table>	Security plan	X	System impact level	X	System test and evaluation	X	Security control testing	X	Incident handling	X	Security awareness training	X	Configurations/patching	X	Other:		
Security plan	X																	
System impact level	X																	
System test and evaluation	X																	
Security control testing	X																	
Incident handling	X																	
Security awareness training	X																	
Configurations/patching	X																	
Other:																		

Comments: Certification and Accreditation (C&A) was completed for only 1 of 14 systems in BBG's inventory (Central Infrastructure Domain), although all 14 systems are required to have C&As during FY 2008.

Section C - Inspector General: Questions 6, 7, and 8

Agency Name: Broadcasting Board of Governors

Question 6-7: IG Assessment of Agency Privacy Program and Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Process

6

Provide a qualitative assessment of the agency's Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) process, as discussed in Section D Question #5 (SAOP reporting template), including adherence to existing policy, guidance, and standards.

Response Categories:

- Response Categories:
- Excellent
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Failing

Satisfactory

Comments: During 2008, BBG updated its website to include an internet privacy policy and privacy reports. The BBG Internet Privacy Policy webpage states that the agency collects no personal information when the public visits the website unless the public chooses to provide that information voluntarily. BBG added a privacy-specific webpage that includes links to its System of Records Notice and to the PIA for the Momentum Financials System. BBG posted additional policies on its intranet website that address (1) privacy awareness training, (2) privacy breach notification, (3) BBG rules of behavior for safeguarding personally identifiable information, and (4) Privacy Impact Assessments. BBG completed privacy threshold analyses for five of its 14 information systems and its analyses concluded that PIAs were not required. BBG did not perform threshold analyses or PIAs on the remaining systems because they were not newly acquired or modified during the year per OMB Memorandum M-03-22.

7

Provide a qualitative assessment of the agency's progress to date in implementing the provisions of M-07-16 Safeguarding Against and Responding to the Breach of Personally Identifiable Information.

Response Categories:

- Response Categories:
- Excellent
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Poor
- Failing

Satisfactory

Comments: During 2008, BBG made progress in implementing the provisions of OMB Memorandum M-07-16 and issued four policies and two implementation plans. The implementation plans address (1) BBG plans to eliminate unnecessary use of social security numbers and (2) BBG plans to review and reduce the volume of personally identifiable information. However, BBG did not update its Information Security Incident Response Plan prepared in June 2004 to address M-07-16 guidance for responding to breaches related to personally identifiable information and to its Privacy Breach Notification Policy issued in July 2008.

Question 8: Configuration Management

8.a. Is there an agency-wide security configuration policy? Yes or No.

No

8.b. Approximate the extent to which applicable systems implement common security configurations, including use of common security configurations available from the National Institute of Standards and Technology's website at <http://checklists.nist.gov>.

Rarely (0-50% of the time)

Response categories:

- Rarely- for example, approximately 0-50% of the time
- Sometimes- for example, approximately 51-70% of the time
- Frequently- for example, approximately 71-80% of the time
- Mostly- for example, approximately 81-95% of the time
- Almost Always- for example, approximately 96-100% of the time

8.c. Indicate which aspects of Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) have been implemented as of this report:

c.1. Agency has adopted and implemented FDCC standard configurations and has documented deviations. Yes or No.

No

c.2 New Federal Acquisition Regulation 2007-004 language, which modified "Part 39—Acquisition of Information Technology", is included in all contracts related to common security settings. Yes or No.

No

c.3 All Windows XP and VISTA computing systems have implemented the FDCC security settings. Yes or No. No

Comments: 8a: BBG provided the team with an IT Change Management (CM) Policy as evidence of an agency-wide security configuration policy. While the plan incorporates several key components of a CM policy, it is still lacking in some areas, including ensuring that procedures on common security configurations are present on all BBG systems and workstations. The policy also does not include detailed change control procedures for performing a change, whether it is an application, hardware, or configuration modification and addition.

8b: BBG has documentation in the form of baselines, policies, and standards for common security configurations on a variety of IT platforms; however, only one system has been accredited. The Central Infrastructure Domain CM testing was reviewed, and CM-1 through CM-8 achieved the result of "satisfied."

8c: FDCC compliance applies to Windows XP and VISTA operating systems. BBG workstations currently use the Windows 2000 operating system. BBG will be transitioning to Windows XP within the next year, and it is cognizant of FDCC compliance requirements.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
QUARTERLY REPORT ON FY 2008 CARRY-OVER OBLIGATIONS
(In thousands of dollars)

	Account	Balances Carried Into FY 2008	Obligations 10/1/07 through 3/31/08	Balances Remaining
Broadcasting Board of Governors				
International Broadcasting Operations	95-0206	11,104	10,058	1,046
Broadcasting Capital Improvements	95-0204	23,557	4,110	19,447
Office of Cuba Broadcasting	95-0208	41	-	41
Total		34,702	14,168	20,534

Broadcasting Board of Governors
Report to Congress
Pursuant to P.L. 110-53
Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007

Pursuant to Section 2032 of Public Law 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) is pleased to report to the Congress on the requirement to initiate a pilot project to transcribe into the English language news and information programming broadcast by Radio Farda, Radio Sawa, the Persian Service of the Voice of America (VOA), and Alhurra Television. As the BBG had an ongoing program of English language translations for Persian-language programming at the time P.L. 110-53 was signed into law, this report will reference this effort as well.

Background

The BBG began implementing a program of random translations for Persian programming in May 2007 in response to a Congressional concern regarding the transparency and oversight of VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Persian broadcasts. The BBG had investigated the costs of securing high quality English language translations for all of its Persian programming, and found the costs prohibitive. However, in an effort to demonstrate greater transparency, the BBG set aside \$300,000 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007 for a program of random translations of Persian programming through a contractor that could provide a high quality product reflective of the journalistic quality of the broadcasts.

Working through the Agency's Office of Performance Review, the BBG contracted with the Congressionally-chartered National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC) to translate and post program materials on the BBG website. The Office of Performance Review, which performs internal program oversight of VOA and Office of Cuba Broadcasting language services, was tasked with generating a computer program to randomly select the programming to be translated. Neither program managers in the Agency or at the broadcast entities were involved in choosing the programs to be sent to NVTC for translation. Between May and September 2007, the BBG posted English translations of approximately 140 hours of Persian-language programming.

As noted above, P.L. 110-53, signed on August 3, 2007, required the BBG to establish a pilot program of random translations for its Persian and Arabic radio and television broadcasts. To accomplish this, the BBG proposed to maintain its existing contractual arrangement with NVTC to continue Persian translations, and to add translations of the Arabic programming of Alhurra Television and Radio Sawa. Given that the Agency would be operating under a series of Continuing Resolutions between September 30, 2007 and the passage of the FY 2008 Appropriation, the BBG proposed to devote a pro rata share of the \$300,000 allocated for this purpose during FY 2007 to the translation program while operating under a Continuing Resolution.

Costs

In September 2007, the BBG began consulting with NVTC to extend its contract relationship into the next fiscal year in order to facilitate translations pursuant to P.L. 110-53. At that time,

we were informed by NVTC that the actual costs of translation per broadcast hour exceeded NVTC's original estimates, and that NVTC would not be able to produce the same number of translation hours at the price agreed to in FY 2007. Actual costs exceeded estimates in large part because the programs were "richer" than NVTC estimated. For example, the programs on average contained more words than estimated. Also, during many programs with audience call-in features, translation became more difficult because different dialects were used and because the audio was often less clear due to the audience's use of cell phones. These higher costs, together with the need to add Arabic programming to the random translation mix, and the limited funding available to the Agency under Continuing Resolutions, slowed the pace of translated program material available for posting on the Agency's website.

The BBG and its broadcast services firmly believe that the translated English product of broadcast materials must appropriately represent the program quality of BBG Persian and Arabic broadcasts. The translations that are posted on the Agency's website will be taken as verbatim representations of the broadcasts. We are certainly aware that no translation may fully reflect the tone, pace, exact wording, or intent of the broadcaster or interviewee. However, the BBG and its predecessor organizations have had a long history of obtaining spot translations, and are very sensitive to the need for a professional product. In this case, the Agency found that comprehensive services offered by NVTC promised a quality journalistic product that might best reflect the original broadcast within cost-effective parameters.

The costs of translations of Persian and Arabic are substantial, and upwards of \$70.00 per hour of translation work. One hour of radio programming takes approximately 40 hours to translate (or \$2,800.00 per program hour), while one hour of TV programming takes approximately 50 hours (or \$3,500.00 per program hour). The BBG's cost estimates for translation services were verified by the Congressional Budget Office on March 27, 2007, during consideration of S. 4, Improving America's Security Act.

Given the substantial cost of quality translations, the BBG has considered the possibility of utilizing translation software for this purpose. However, software is not yet a solution, as it is expensive, and the relatively low accuracy rates result in a final product that is not of adequate quality. The BBG will consider translation software as the technology continues to improve.

As of the date of this report, English language versions of Persian programming have been posted between May and November 2007, and for March 2008. Translations of Arabic programming have been posted from November 2007 through April 2008. We are working closely with NVTC to continue to refine the translation pilot project, and hope to be up to date on all postings in early summer.

Translations Pursuant to the FY 2008 Appropriations Act

While translation programs pursuant to P.L. 110-53 got underway, the Agency was anticipating a requirement for an increasingly robust translation program for Alhurra Television (Arabic) in the appropriations process. The Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 passed in December 2007, provided funding for 24/7 streaming of Alhurra programming, and the "random translation of up to 16 hours per week of Alhurra's original programming by an independent entity." The Agency expects to utilize approximately \$1.8 million in FY 2008 for this purpose,

and to continue providing random translations of Radio Sawa, Radio Farda, and Persian Radio and Television programming. In addition, MBN has begun streaming its television programming on the web, and is implementing plans to archive this programming on its website. VOA Persian's flagship *News & Views* prime time television news program is also streamed and archived on the VOA website.

Utility and Feasibility of an Ongoing Translation Program

Section 2032(c) of Public Law 110-53 specifically required the Chairman of the BBG to report on the feasibility and utility of continuing the pilot translation project. Absent funds appropriated specifically for this purpose, a continuing broad program of translations would be burdensome for the Agency and would divert scarce resources from program production. The BBG does not believe that large-scale, routine program translations are essential to ensuring the integrity of programming. The broadcast entities of the BBG provide balanced news and information to audiences overseas, and present responsible discussions on U.S. policies. The broadcasters themselves exact strict editorial requirements to ensure that our broadcasts serve as a reliable and authoritative source of news. In addition to daily editorial oversight by program professionals within the language services and the application of strict journalistic standards and stringent external audience research, the Agency implements a thorough "program review" process for each language service on an annual basis, examining the professionalism of the journalistic product, as well as on-air presence, speech, and production values of the broadcasts. In some cases, this internal program review utilizes translations from a randomly chosen, defined period to review content and facilitate outside review from professional journalists or academics. We believe that these translations, performed on a spot basis, can provide appropriate insight into the overall quality of the broadcast product.

This being said, the BBG does not oppose implementing a more routine program of randomly selected program translations, should appropriate funding be made available. The translations funded by the Agency in 2007 unquestionably provided an additional oversight tool for the Agency's program review function, and provided an additional quality assurance tool for managers of the broadcast entities. However, given the high costs associated with quality translations -- especially in languages such as Persian and Arabic -- we remain concerned that implementing any such a program not come at the expense of the program budgets of the language services.

Broadcasting Board of Governors
United States of America

Federal Information Security Management Act Report
October 2005

Section B: Chief Information Officer Questions 1, 2, 3, and 4

Agency Name _____

Question 1 and 2

1. By FIPS 199 risk impact level (high, moderate, low, or not categorized) and by bureau, identify the number of information systems used or operated by your agency, and the number of information systems used or operated by a contractor of your agency or other organization on behalf of your agency.

Note: Agency systems shall include information systems used or operated by an agency. Contractor systems shall include information systems used or operated by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency. The total number of systems shall include both agency systems and contractor systems.

To meet the requirement for conducting a NIST Special Publication 800-26 review, agencies can:

- 1) Continue to use NIST Special Publication 800-26, or,
- 2) Conduct a self-assessment against the controls found in NIST Special Publication 800-53

Agencies are responsible for ensuring the security of information systems used by a contractor of their agency or other organization on behalf of their agency; therefore, self-reporting by contractors does not meet the requirements of law. Self-reporting by another Federal agency, for example, a Federal service provider, may be sufficient. Agencies and service providers have a shared responsibility for FISMA compliance.

FIPS 199, a Federal information processing standard, was published in February 2004. If there are systems which have not yet been categorized, or, if a risk impact level was determined through another method, please explain below in item (d).

2. For each part of this question, identify actual performance in FY 05 by risk impact level and bureau, in the format provided below. From the Total Number of Systems, identify the number of systems which have: a current certification and accreditation, a contingency plan tested within the past year, and security controls tested within the past year. Contingency planning is a requirement for certification and accreditation, with annual contingency plan testing required thereafter. If the number of systems with full certification and accreditation is higher than the number of systems with a tested contingency plan, please explain.

Question 1							Question 2						
		a. FY 05 Agency Systems		b. FY 05 Contractor Systems		c. FY 05 Total Number of Systems		a. Number of systems certified and accredited		b. Number of systems for which security controls have been tested and evaluated in the last year		c. Number of systems for which contingency plans have been tested in accordance with policy and guidance	
FIPS 199 Risk Impact Level		Total Number	Number Reviewed	Total Number	Number Reviewed	Total Number	Number Reviewed	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total	Total Number	Percent of Total
Bureau Name													
International Broadcasting		0		0		0							
	High												
	Moderate	11	3	0		11	3	3	27.3%	11	100.0%	3	27.3%
	Low	10	3	4	1	14	4	4	28.6%	13	92.9%	4	28.6%
	Not Categorized					0							
	Sub-total	21	6	4	1	25	7	7	28.0%	24	96.0%	7	28.0%
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Bureau													
	High					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Moderate					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Low					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Not Categorized					0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
	Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!	
Agency Totals													
	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		0	#DIV/0!
	Moderate	11	3	0	0	11	3	3	27.3%	11	100.0%	3	27.3%
	Low	10	3	4	1	14	4	4	28.6%	13	92.9%	4	28.6%
	Not Categorized	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!		0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!

Total	21	0	4	1	25	7	7	28.0%	24	96.0%	7	28.0%
1.d.	If there are systems which have not yet been categorized, or, if a risk impact level was determined through another method, please explain											
2.d.	If the number of systems with full certification and accreditation is higher than the number of systems with a tested contingency plan, please explain											
Question 3												
Agencies must implement the recommended security controls in NIST Special Publication 800-53.												
3.a.	Do you have a plan in place to fully implement the security controls recommended in NIST Special Publication 800-53? Yes or No.										Yes	
3.b.	Have you begun to implement the security controls recommended in NIST Special Publication 800-53? Yes or No										No	
Question 4												
Incident Detection Capabilities.												
4.a.	What tools, techniques, technologies, etc., does the agency use for incident detection? Virus scanning logs, perimeter firewall logs, network intrusion detection system, network monitoring system											
4.b.	How many systems (or networks of systems) are protected using the tools, techniques and technologies described above? 21											

Section B: Chief Information Officer. Question 5.

Agency Name:

Question 5

Information gathered in this question will be forwarded to the Department of Homeland Security for validation.

For each category of incident listed: identify the total number of successful incidents in FY 05, the number of incidents reported to US-CERT, and the number reported to law enforcement. If your agency considers another category of incident type to be high priority, include this information in category e., "Other". If appropriate or necessary, include comments in the area provided below.

5. Number of Incidents, by category:			
	Reported internally	Reported to US-CERT	Reported to law enforcement
Type of Incident:	Number of Incidents	Number of Incidents	Number of Incidents
a. Unauthorized Access	1	0	0
b. Denial of Service (DoS)	1	0	0
c. Malicious Code	0	0	0
d. Improper Usage	0	1	0
e. Other	0	0	0
Totals:	2	1	0
Comments: The two incidents that were reported internally but not forwarded to US-CERT were investigated and determined to be "false positives."			

Section B: Questions 6 and 7

Question 6

6. Has the agency ensured security training and awareness of all employees, including contractors and those employees with significant IT security responsibilities?
Yes or No.

a. Total number of employees in FY05	b. Number of employees that received IT security awareness training in FY 05, as described in NIST Special Publication 800-50, "Building an Information Technology Security Awareness and Training Program" (October 2003)		c. Total number of employees with significant IT security responsibilities	d. Number of employees with significant security responsibilities that received specialized training, as described in NIST Special Publication 800-16, "Information Technology Security Training Requirements: A Role- and Performance-Based Model"		Total costs for providing IT security training in FY05 (in \$'s)
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage	
2468	1350	55%	110	43	39%	\$62,800

6.e.

B. Agency-wide on-line course w test on security principles. D. Mixture of specific security training (Network Security, Firewall), & Security Conferences/Seminars.

Comments:

Question 7

Does the agency explain policies regarding peer-to-peer file sharing in IT security awareness training, ethics training, or any other agency wide training?
Yes or No.

No

Section B: Chief Information Officer. Question 8, 9, and 10.

Agency Name:

Question 8

8.a. Is there an agency wide security configuration policy? Yes or No

Yes

Comments:

8.b. Configuration guides are available for the products listed below. Identify which software is addressed in the agency wide security configuration policy. Indicate whether or not any agency systems run the software. In addition, approximate the extent of implementation of the security configuration policy on the systems running the software.

Product

Addressed in
agencywide policy?Do any agency
systems run this
software?Yes, No,
or N/A.

Yes or No.

Approximate the extent of implementation of the security
configuration policy on the systems running the software.

Response choices include:

- Rarely, or, on approximately 0-50% of the systems running this software
- Sometimes, or on approximately 51-70% of the systems running this software
- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software
- Mostly, or on approximately 81-95% of the systems running this software
- Almost Always, or on approximately 96-100% of the systems running this software

Windows XP Professional

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Windows NT

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Windows 2000 Professional

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Windows 2000 Server

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Windows 2003 Server

No

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Solaris

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

HP-UX

N/A

No

Linux

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Cisco Router IOS

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Oracle

Yes

Yes

- Frequently, or on approximately 71-80% of the systems running this software

Other. Specify:

Comments:

Question 9

Indicate whether or not the following policies and procedures are in place at your agency. If appropriate or necessary, include comments in the area provided below.

9.a. The agency follows documented policies and procedures for identifying and reporting incidents internally. Yes or No.

Yes

9.b. The agency follows documented policies and procedures for external reporting to law enforcement authorities. Yes or No.

Yes

9.c. The agency follows defined procedures for reporting to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT). <http://www.us-cert.gov> Yes or No.

Yes

Comments:

Question 10

10.a. Has the agency documented in its security policies special procedures for using emerging technologies (including but not limited to wireless and IPv6) and countering emerging threats (including but not limited to spyware, malware, etc.)? Yes or No.

No

10.b. If the answer to 10 a. is "Yes," briefly describe the documented procedures. These special procedures could include more frequent control tests & evaluations, specific configuration requirements, additional monitoring, or specialized training.

Response:

Comments

SECTION 2104 STATUS REPORT
BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-13) includes \$7.3 million for Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) programs. The financial plan and the status of the projects are described below.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS (\$4.8 million)

The financial plan provides \$4.8 million for International Broadcasting Operations:

- \$2.4 million to enhance programming to the broader Middle East by increasing VOA Persian television to one hour a day and to initiate a television program in VOA Urdu, including associated audience development and marketing efforts. VOA Persian surged to one hour in the lead up to the election and continues the one-hour daily program. VOA Urdu launched a half-hour television program on November 14th.
- \$2.0 million to initiate an Alhurra stream to Europe, including associated audience development efforts. The IBB Office of Engineering and Alhurra are currently working on establishing the equipment and technical infrastructure to support the stream to Europe with a target launch date of April 2006.
- \$.4 million to enhance audience development efforts in Indonesia by improving program delivery. VOA and IBB are identifying an effective method to extend the reach of VOA programming throughout Indonesia – the target date is 2nd quarter of FY 2006.

BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (\$2.5 million)

This financial plan provides \$2.5 million for Broadcasting Capital Improvements as follows:

- \$2.2 million to upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for improved transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. The contract for upgrading the antennas is in place and the project is underway.
- \$.3 million to initiate satellite transmissions of BBG programming to China. The satellite uplink was functional on October 5, 2005.

**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REPORT ON FY 2005 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL**
(In thousands of dollars)

	Account	Allocation	Obligations as of 11/11/05	Balances Remaining
Broadcasting Board of Governors				
International Broadcasting Operations	95-0206	4,800	2,116	2,684
VOA Broadcasting to Broader Middle East \1		2,800	698	2,102
Alhurra Europe \2		2,000	1,418	582
Broadcasting Capital Improvements	95-0204	2,500	1,485	1,015
Improvements to broadcasting directed to Pakistan and People's Republic of China \3		2,500	1,485	1,015
Total		7,300	3,601	3,699

- \1 Increase the VOA Persian television program, News and Views to 1 hour daily, initiate a VOA Urdu television program, and enhance affiliate and audience development for VOA Indonesian.
- \2 MBN's start up of Alhurra Europe 24/7 television stream.
- \3 Upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. Also, initiate direct-to-home satellite transmission to China.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REPORT ON FY 2005 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
(In thousands of dollars)

	Account	Allocation	Obligations as of 11/30/05	Expenditures as of 11/30/05	Unobligated Balances Remaining
Broadcasting Board of Governors					
International Broadcasting Operations	95-0206	4,800	2,116	1,778	2,684
VOA Broadcasting to Broader Middle East \1		2,800	698	498	2,102
Alhurra Europe \2		2,000	1,418	1,280	582
Broadcasting Capital Improvements	95-0204	2,500	1,485	714	1,015
Improvements to broadcasting directed to Pakistan and People's Republic of China \3		2,500	1,485	714	1,015
Total		7,300	3,601	2,492	3,699

\1 Increase the VOA Persian television program, News and Views to 1 hour daily, initiate a VOA Urdu television program, and enhance affiliate and audience development for VOA Indonesian.

\2 MBN's start up of Alhurra Europe 24/7 television stream.

\3 Upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. Also, initiate direct-to-home satellite transmission to China.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2005 Language Service Review

Final Report

The 2005 Language Service Review (LSR) process presented challenges for the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). There are growing broadcast needs from many regions of the world, especially the Islamic world, and the BBG is actively transforming the agency and its programs to meet these needs. Recent successes – worldwide audience numbers are at an all-time high – prove that given the resources, the talented professionals of U.S. international broadcasting are making a significant contribution to United States public diplomacy. They provide rich, journalistic content in a manner that, increasingly, maximizes our audience reach in the regions of highest foreign policy priority.

The BBG seeks to build on past successes and extend the reach of the broadcasts, as well as maximize program impact. Language Service Review has emerged as the primary tool for assessing programs, allowing the Board to make informed decisions about programming priority and quality and impact in a limited budget environment.

The BBG submits this report on the results of the 2005 Language Service Review pursuant to the requirement in the Conference report accompanying H.R. 4754 (P.L. 108-576), Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.

Summary

The Conference report accompanying H.R. 4754 (108-576) containing the BBG's appropriation for Fiscal Year 2005 states, "The Committee continues to support the Board's efforts to objectively and systematically review and evaluate the performance, results, and priority of every U.S. Government-sponsored international broadcasting language service and to propose corresponding reallocations of funds. The Committee endorses this process as a means to improve broadcast quality and meet emerging program priorities within limited resources."

The LSR process in 2005 began early in the year with an overall assessment of U.S. foreign policy priorities, both current and prospective, provided to the Board by the State Department's Under Secretary for Political Affairs. This guidance on regional and functional diplomatic priorities and hot spots provided the underpinning of the overall review. The three broad imperatives used in the 2005 process included:

- Broadcasting to countries directly impacted by the War on Terrorism
This includes the Middle East, terrorist states, states that support terror or who may obtain or develop weapons of mass destruction.
- Preventative actions related to the War on Terrorism
This includes broadcasts to nations which join in coalitions against terrorism, or which are under potential threat of instability because of terrorism.

- Countering tyranny and supporting democracy
This includes broadcasts supporting transitions to democracy and strengthening democratic institutions in fledgling democracies.

In concert with the identification of these new and continuing priorities, LSR conducted regional and country evaluations and examined current BBG programming and associated support functions. The regional and country evaluations informed LSR of the political factors, media challenges, opportunities and limitations in strategic geographical areas while the examination of current programming assessed programs across all BBG broadcast entities and across all media (radio, television, and Internet) to evaluate whether each language service maintains high standards of broadcasting quality and provides significant impact

Highlights of the comprehensive research data include:

- U.S. international broadcasting audiences are growing—to an estimated 140 million worldwide.
- Television viewing is growing, adding important new audiences in key areas of the world.
- In several countries, including in the Middle East, one in five adults now listen to or watch U.S. international broadcasting programs.
- The audience expansion was accomplished without sacrificing journalistic values, as verified by audience measures of credibility and reliability as well as language service program quality scores.

The compilation of worldwide audience research through an independent research organization (InterMedia) plus the analysis of trends, effectiveness and future projections are testament to the BBG's commitment to a thorough Language Service Review process. The data is compiled into a comprehensive briefing book that is based on the most recent surveys conducted by InterMedia as well as outside sources, such as the CIA World Factbook, Freedom House Press Freedom Rating, and the Heritage Foundation Economic Freedom Rating. The briefing book was finalized by the spring of 2005. The dates of the most current research and information ranged from 2004 to March 2005.

LSR also considered proposals from the broadcast services to revamp and improve or expand programming. Some of these proposals demonstrated the potential to appeal to new audiences to further our journalistic mission. Other proposals required further research and development. The proposals included performance data on existing programming as well as updated research on the local media environments and the media habits of the audiences to gauge the potential impact of the proposed initiative.

LSR concluded in September 2005 by validating BBG programs, identifying reallocations in some programs, and proposing enhancement to other programs. LSR informed the FY 2007 budget process and guides the implementation of the FY 2006 program plan. Integrating U.S. foreign policy objectives with a wealth of performance, research and statistical data, the final Language Service Review package included a number of key recommendations that are described below.

Recommendations

Radio Sawa local news

The establishment of democracy across the Middle East is one of the nation's highest priorities. Radio Sawa has proven itself to be indispensable to millions of listeners in the region as a reliable source of news and information. According to recent audience research conducted in May and June 2005¹, Radio Sawa has a weekly audience of 20.8 million adults, and listeners in key markets ranked the station as one of their top two choices for radio news and information. In addition, 73 percent of Radio Sawa's listeners consider the news reliable. Radio Sawa can enhance its role in democracy building by increasing local news content on additional broadcast streams, as it has already done in Iraq. By focusing on local and national developments of vital importance to its diverse audiences, it can provide unbiased, accurate information – something vital to the process of democratic governance. The 2007 budget request includes an enhancement to add local content by increasing stringers (local journalists) in target countries.

Alhurra 24/7 news

Alhurra has become, in a relatively short time, a strong alternative to established Middle Eastern satellite TV channels such as Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya. It can be even more competitive if it has the resources to mount newscasts 24 hours a day (instead of the current 16 hours). Alhurra reaches nearly six contiguous time zones, making 24-hour coverage essential to provide the most current news to all target audiences. According to the same 2005 ACNielsen survey in the Middle East, when viewers were asked what kind of programs they were interested in watching on Alhurra, 77 percent indicated that they were interested in watching the news – a level of interest far higher than for any other category of programming. In just a few short years, Alhurra has increased the number of its viewers to over 20 million but needs this further competitive advantage in the crowded Middle East marketplace of ideas. The 2007 budget request includes additional staff and program resources to provide around-the-clock news coverage.

Radio Sawa and Alhurra support U.S. foreign policy objectives by providing a means of communication with the Arabic speaking world. Many of the nations in MBN's broadcast footprint are on the frontline of the War on Terrorism, while others are experimenting with political and economic reforms towards more democratic societies.

North Korea

North Korea is one of the original "axis of evil" countries identified by President Bush. The President warned of its support of terrorism and potential as a source of instability in the world. The erratic regime in Pyongyang makes no secret of its nuclear ambitions, or of its belligerence to the U.S. However, it shows particular sensitivity to virtually any criticism, going to extreme lengths to limit internal dissent. Clearly, reaching the people of North Korea is vital in the War on Terrorism.

Enhancing transmission and programming by Radio Free Asia is consistent with U.S. foreign policy interests in North Korea. The LSR process explored every possible means

¹ ACNielsen survey of over 14,000 face-to-face interviews conducted across nine countries in the Middle East in May and June of 2005 for Radio Sawa and Alhurra.

to get information into that closed society where listeners are desperate for current news and information. Surveys included in the LSR briefing book show that listeners in North Korea have significantly higher access to medium wave than shortwave, and listeners would prefer listening to medium wave because of improved signal strength and clear reception. LSR recommended increasing medium wave transmission for RFA broadcasts to North Korea to greatly expand our audience reach. This has been included in the 2007 budget request.

Africa

The LSR committee endorsed the continuation of VOA's special Zimbabwe programming, which has been funded by USAID from 2004 until the end of fiscal year 2006. The 2007 budget request supports continued broadcasting to Zimbabwe by requesting funding for this program within BBG's appropriation. The government of Robert Mugabe continues to repress free expression, stifle dissent and frustrate the potential of Zimbabwe. The need for a witness has never been stronger, and VOA's innovative, targeted programming to Zimbabwe must not fall silent when funding from USAID ends. VOA is the only major international station to broadcast to Zimbabwe in the local languages of Shona and Ndebele. The Mashona (Shona speakers), who constitute about 75% of the population, have lived in the area the longest and are the majority language group with over 413,000 weekly listeners².

The LSR committee also recommends that VOA develop a comprehensive Africa plan aimed at protecting its important audience base on the continent and offering attractively packaged new programming for FM and TV formats. The objective is to ensure that VOA reaches significant audiences in the medium they prefer while safeguarding the ability to provide up-to-the-minute news and information in times of instability or media restrictions. It is expected that the comprehensive Africa plan will be developed during FY 2006³.

Programming to the Horn of Africa should be a main focus of the plan. Somalia is struggling to regain a semblance of self-government after years of turmoil. With a large and increasingly alienated Muslim population, the Horn of Africa is a region that remains vulnerable to conflict and instability, and the potential for terrorism and extremism.

RFE/RL Russian UKV network

The media market in Russia has seen significant growth; it is now highly segmented and competitive. At the same time, restrictions and strong government antagonism towards independent media make it even more imperative to reach audiences in support of democracy.

Although television is the dominant medium in Russia, there is a solid radio audience for news and information. According to the research used for the LSR, 82% of adults listen weekly to radio on Eastern FM frequencies (UKV). These frequencies are by far the

² InterMedia/ORC Macro, August, 2005

³ The first phase of this new plan has been completed as of March 2006 with a new program lineup for programming in English to Africa, including more in-depth local and world news, breaking news reports, and a broader range of topical features covering social and political issues, developments in science and technology, African youth, lifestyle and music. See <http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2006-03-31-voa63.cfm> for more details.

most popular wave bands in Russian while use of shortwave and medium wave is stagnant.

Based on these statistics, LSR supports further migration from shortwave radio toward a nationwide UKV broadcasting platform. To ensure maximum audiences, BBG is piloting this platform in the largest cities in Russia including St. Petersburg and Moscow, with RFE/RL taking the lead by reallocating resources to support the effort. The FY 2007 budget request also supports expanding UKV to three additional cities with populations of 1 million or more.

Andean Region and Venezuela

The threat of instability in the Andean region is of concern, and VOA can play an important role in bringing unbiased, uncensored journalism to a region plagued by narco-terrorism, despotism and economic turmoil. In light of a crackdown on press freedom by the government of Venezuela, the need is especially great to counter tyranny and support democratic institutions.

LSR recommends that VOA and IBB seek new placement opportunities in the Andean region, with a view towards substantially expanding programming. The 2007 budget request supports a 30-minute television program Monday – Friday, and customized targeted news feeds that can be tailored for TV networks/stations in Venezuela. According to the LSR research, nearly 9 in 10 adults watch television in Venezuela, and the figures are similar in other countries in the region.

Hindi

India is the world's largest democracy, with the world's second largest Muslim population. It has a nuclear-armed neighbor, Pakistan. It is a growing economic power that has joined the United States in the coalition against terrorism.

Given the increasing popularity of television in India,⁴ VOA has worked to make significant inroads in attracting audiences, through an innovative TV affiliate agreement with the country's most successful cable/satellite network, Aaj Tak. According to the TV affiliate, Aaj Tak reaches over 30 million households. At the same time, our survey data also indicate a downward trend in international radio listening, especially for shortwave. These statistics show that shifting VOA Hindi from shortwave radio broadcasts to pursue a multi-media strategy, with a focus on television, will likely grow the audience share. The 2007 budget request supports VOA's television broadcasting to India, thereby continuing and potentially increasing the capability to reach millions of new audience members in India.

⁴ InterMedia survey May 2005. The survey covered the predominantly Hindi-speaking North Indian states of Haryana (including Delhi, the national capital), Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand (formally part of Bihar), Chattisgarh (formally part of Madhya Pradesh), Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal (formally part of Uttar Pradesh) and Uttar Pradesh.

Arc of Islam

LSR analysis indicated the importance and potential impact in the War on Terrorism for stepped-up broadcasts to the “Arc of Islam” – a broad sweep of target areas surrounding the South China Sea. This region is home to a growing number of Muslim fundamentalists who are attempting to sway public opinion against the United States. Al-Jazeera will soon open a new regional headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In order to increase broadcasting to the region, including Malaysia, LSR recognizes the potential of existing IBB transmission resources in the region and the linguistic affinities between Bahasa Malay (a language spoken primarily in Malaysia but also in Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, and Thailand) and Bahasa Indonesian (the official language of Indonesia), a language that VOA already broadcasts nearly 10 hours per day. LSR recommends that VOA aggressively research options for enhancing programming to this region that draw on its existing language resources. BBG looks forward to seeing the results of this study in the 2006 Language Service Review.

Central Asia

RFE/RL currently maintains a web site in Russian focusing primarily on news and information that is geared toward a broad audience. LSR considered an initiative at RFE/RL to launch a new Russian-language web site specifically for young people in Central Asia with the aim that this become an innovative cyber “meeting place” for those advocating democratic reforms in the region. This new web site geared toward youths would be complementary to the existing web site.

In order to consider this proposal in a broader context, LSR recommends that RFE/RL develop a comprehensive Central Asia plan in FY 2006 that includes a description of how this web site, existing language programs, and potentially other media fit into its overall audience-building strategy. Research and marketing input will be critical to this planning process. LSR plans to reconsider this initiative next year.

Turkey

Turkey has been an important ally of the U.S. in many arenas, including the War on Terrorism. Survey data indicate that public opinion is becoming increasingly “anti-American” with only 15% of respondents viewing the U.S. with a favorable opinion⁵. The data also indicate that 98% of adults in Turkey rely on TV to get their news, which includes the younger and more highly educated segments of the population. Shortwave listenership has been in a steady decline, with only a 1% audience reach in the latest audience research.

Since 2004 VOA has developed a 30 minute weekly television program in Turkish that has gained a key placement on a leading news channel in Turkey, which should increase the audience size for Turkish broadcasting. VOA and the news affiliate hold promise for VOA in Turkey – a Muslim nation poised to join the European Union. LSR recommends that VOA in 2006 continue to develop its television audience by shifting resources from shortwave radio broadcasting to television broadcasting.

⁵ InterMedia (TNS-Piar Omnibus), April 2005.

VOA Internet and RFA Internet

LSR found that VOA and other broadcast entities have not developed an Internet Strategic Plan, and while the broadcast entities have developed timely Internet products for our online audiences⁶, the results have been uneven. For example, some sites contain news text that is updated daily, others are updated weekly, while still others have no news text and rely totally on audio streaming, even though the ability to download audio may be limited in markets. To improve the BBG's ability to reach online audiences more broadly, LSR recommends that VOA develop an Internet Strategic Plan during FY 2006 that presents a logical course for VOA Internet activities over the next five years. The strategic plan should answer some fundamental questions:

What role does the Internet play in VOA's mission? Does the use of Internet streaming justify the cost of providing the service? Does every language service need the ability to update news 24 hours a day? What interactivity or unique proposition does each site need based on the specific market and audience being targeted?

The plan should also include significant research to aid in the comprehensive planning process. It is anticipated that this strategic plan will guide web development and resource planning in the future. Upgrading selected websites is a pressing need at VOA, and LSR recommends that VOA ensure Internet enhancements are market-specific, and not "one size fits all." LSR has found that *unique* content, finding BBG's niche in a competitive Internet marketplace and providing the added value wins over users.

Some Observations

The BBG made several improvements to the LSR process this year. To further integrate budget development and strategic management, the LSR committee instituted a new standard "template" for submitting programming improvement and expansion proposals. The new template required information on how the proposal was applicable to the BBG strategic goals, how market research supports the proposal, the anticipated results of the proposal and the required resources (including offsets) for implementing the proposal. The template enabled the broadcasters to document projected audience expansion for each of the proposals, and enabled participants in the LSR process to judge and compare the cost-effectiveness of each of proposal. Ultimately, this exercise resulted in stronger proposals that were consistent with the BBG's mission to "marry the mission to the market."

The BBG also used a team approach in reviewing and evaluating the proposals before the actual Language Service Review process, and included a representative from the CFO's Office of Strategic Management in that preliminary review and evaluation. This team continued to stay involved in every aspect of the Language Service Review process. Overall, the process was successful and the BBG plans to make these changes permanent.

⁶ Total website visitors from January 1, 2005 to September 27, 2005 equaled 12.9 million, not including additional traffic from proxy servers.

Conclusion

The BBG believes that the outcome and recommendations of the 2005 Language Service Review will lead U.S. international broadcasting to greater success in the coming years. We look forward to seeing them come to fruition, enhancing the United States' ability to communicate with publics across the world with accurate, truthful, timely news and information. Our country – and our loyal audiences – deserve no less.

2005 Language Service Review Committee

Blanquita Y. Cullum, Chair

Joaquin Blaya

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson

Staff

Gary Thatcher

Karen Hess

Jim Morrow

**Broadcasting Board of Governors
Status Report on Alhurra Iraq
2nd Quarter 2006**

In response to the requirement in the Conference Report on H. Rpt 2862, Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (H. Rpt 109-272), directing the BBG to submit a quarterly status report detailing the progress of the BBG television stream tailored specifically for the Iraqi audience, the BBG submits the following FY 2006 2nd quarter status report.

2nd Quarter FY 2006

Staffing

The Alhurra-Iraq News and Current Affairs Department has a staff of 26 employees located at the Middle East Broadcasting Networks headquarters in Springfield, Va. and 52 contractors and stringers in Iraq. Most of the contractors in Iraq work out of the Alhurra-Iraq bureau in the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. Others are located throughout the country to provide on-the-scene coverage of news in Iraq. Programming and news reports are sent from Baghdad to Springfield via a 24/7 satellite link, providing real-time reporting of events.

Transmission

On January 17, 2006, Alhurra-Iraq began broadcasting terrestrially on Channel 12 to Mosul, which allows Iraqi citizens in the Mosul region to view Alhurra-Iraq even if they do not have a satellite system

Program Schedule Summary

The Alhurra-Iraq schedule includes 17 ½ hours a day of Alhurra-produced programs and 6 ½ hours of acquired programming. The following are included in this schedule:

- Eleven programs that directly target the Iraqi audience with news, information, and feature programs, for an average of 7 ½ daily hours. These programs include "Burj Babel," "Iraq Today," "In Iraqi," "The Newspaper," "Between Generations," "Seven Days," "Doors," "Talk of Two Rivers," "Final Edition," and "Sports Studio."
- Daily news programming including four in-depth one-hour newscasts with one hour geared specifically for the Iraqi audience each day, 10-minute news updates at the top of the hour, and brief news headlines throughout the hour.
- Alhurra-produced current affairs programs that examine human rights, the rights of women and democracy such as "Eye on Democracy," "Equality," "Americans," and "With the People."
- Weekly sports programming including a sports program specifically for the Iraqi audience and broadcasts of an NBA game of the week.
- Acquired programming including A&E Biographies, award-winning documentaries from around the world, and Modern Marvels.

Highlights of Programming

Throughout its two-year history, Alhurra-Iraq has provided a forum for discussion of important topics by a wide variety of experts, including voices of moderation. Alhurra's talk shows, roundtables, and documentaries have routinely tackled vital topics that are taboo on other stations in the region, including the struggle for human rights, the position of women in Arab society, religious freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In the second quarter of FY 2006, Alhurra-Iraq continued its extensive coverage of the Saddam Hussein trial as well as the political and security situation in Iraq. Alhurra-Iraq provided comprehensive reports on these issues, including updates from reporters throughout Iraq and expert analysis from Iraq, Washington, and other locations around the world.

Alhurra-Iraq presented in-depth interviews with American and Iraqi officials about the situation in Iraq. These officials included:

- Peter Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs
- Adel Abdel Mehdi, Iraqi Vice President
- Masaud Barazani, Kurdish regional president
- Jeffrey Beals, U.S. Embassy in Iraq
- Samir Sumeidii, Iraqi Ambassador to the UN
- Nisreen Bouari, Iraqi Minister of Public Works
- Jaafar Moussawi, Chief Prosecutor in the Saddam Hussein Trial

Alhurra-Iraq also produced several original programs, including *The Report*, a series of monthly documentaries taking an in-depth look at the issues facing Iraq. One of the documentaries that aired in the 2nd quarter, *The Report: Oil*, examined oil production in Iraq, oil exports from Iraq and the impact of oil on the Iraqi people. This one-hour documentary went behind the scenes and examined why Iraq, one of the world's largest producers of oil, cannot currently provide enough for its own needs. Through interviews with security officials, representatives of the Oil Ministry and Iraqi citizens, the documentary went to the heart of the problem and the plan that officials have developed to fix it. The documentary featured reports from oil Iraqi refineries explaining what precautions measures are being taken to stop insurgent attacks and rebuild facilities that were neglected during the Saddam Hussein regime.

Another *Report* documentary investigated the difficult nomadic lifestyle of the men and women in Al-Ahwar Province in Iraq as they struggle every day to survive harsh conditions to provide food and shelter for their families. The illiteracy rate for women and children in Al-Ahwar is 95 percent. The *Report* gave viewers a first hand account of life in the Al-Ahwar Province through in-depth interviews with the Al-Ahwar citizens and local authorities.

Alhurra-Iraq also produced other special documentaries during the 2nd quarter on subjects such as the growing problem of antiquity theft in Iraq and the life and career of Iraqi poets, authors and intellectuals who passed away in 2005.

During the 2nd quarter, Alhurra-Iraq continued to broadcast live speeches from President George W. Bush with simultaneous translation, as well as a live broadcast of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Iraqi Parliament.

Broadcasting Board of Governors
Cooperative Broadcasting Efforts with the Department of Defense
Annual Report 2006

During the past year, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) has cooperated with the Department of Defense (DOD) on several occasions in broadcasting operations directed toward civilian populations. These operations have employed the broadcast capabilities of the Commando Solo aircraft.

BBG did not provide financial compensation to DOD for any of these cooperative efforts. In each case, DOD agreed not to alter the content of any of the BBG programs that they rebroadcast nor in any way associate them with DOD programs. The BBG broadcasting entities in every case retain full editorial control of the content of their programming in compliance with relevant provisions of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended. In each of these cases, DOD provided an alternative delivery channel for BBG programming that was already available on other channels or other media in an effort to expand the audience. In most cases, the audience members focus mainly on the content of the programming rather than on the delivery method.

1st Quarter FY 2005

Commando Solo flew on the following dates:

October 2, 10, 18, and 26

November 1, 8, 15, 24, and 29

December 6 and 13

2nd Quarter FY 2005

Commando Solo flew on the following dates:

January 10, 18, 24, and 31

February 7, 14, 22, and 28

March 7, 21, and 28

3rd Quarter FY 2005

Commando Solo flew on the following dates:

April 4, 11, 18, and 23

May 1, 10, 16, 23, and 31

June 13, 20, and 27

4th Quarter FY 2005

Commando Solo flew on the following dates:

July 18 and 25

August 15 and 22

September 19

1st Quarter FY 2006

Commando Solo flew on the following dates:

October 17

December 6 and 19

SECTION 2104 STATUS REPORT
BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROPRIATIONS
Six-Month Update - May 2006

The FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-13) includes \$7.3 million for Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) programs. The financial plan and the status of the projects are described below.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS (\$4.8 million)

The financial plan provides \$4.8 million for International Broadcasting Operations:

- \$2.4 million to enhance programming to the broader Middle East by increasing VOA Persian television to one hour a day and to initiate a television program in VOA Urdu to Pakistan, including associated audience development and marketing efforts. VOA Persian surged to one hour in the lead up to the presidential election and continues the one-hour daily program with enhanced reporting from locations worldwide. VOA Urdu launched a half-hour television program on November 14th.
- \$2.0 million to initiate an Alhurra stream to Europe, including associated audience development efforts. The IBB Office of Engineering has made purchases totaling \$.3 million and continues to work with Alhurra in order to establish the equipment and technical infrastructure to support the stream to Europe. Due to delays in the build-out, the target launch date is August 2006.
- \$.4 million to enhance audience development efforts in Indonesia by improving program delivery. VOA and IBB are identifying an effective method to extend the reach of VOA programming throughout Indonesia – the target date is 3rd quarter of FY 2006.

BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (\$2.5 million)

This financial plan provides \$2.5 million for Broadcasting Capital Improvements as follows:

- \$2.2 million to upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for improved transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. The completion date is projected to be July 30, 2006. Significant infrastructure build-out and technical fabrication are anticipated to be achieved in late May.
- \$.3 million to initiate satellite transmissions of BBG programming to China. The satellite uplink was functional on October 5, 2005.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REPORT ON FY 2005 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
(In thousands of dollars)

	Account	Allocation	Obligations as of 5/10/06	Balances Remaining
Broadcasting Board of Governors				
International Broadcasting Operations	95-0206	4,800	3,269	1,531
VOA Broadcasting to Broader Middle East \1		2,800	1,271	1,529
Alhurra Europe \2		2,000	1,998	2
Broadcasting Capital Improvements	95-0204	2,500	1,548	952
Improvements to broadcasting directed to Pakistan and People's Republic of China \3		2,500	1,548	952
Total		7,300	4,817	2,483

\1 Increase the VOA Persian television program, News and Views to 1 hour daily, initiate a VOA Urdu television program, and enhance affiliate and audience development for VOA Indonesian.

\2 MBN's start up of Alhurra Europe 24/7 television stream.

\3 Upgrade the antennas at the Tajikistan transmitting station for transmission to Pakistan and Central Asia. Also, initiate direct-to-home satellite transmission to China.

Requirements and Benchmarks Designed to Reduce Fraud, Misuse, and Abuse of Government Purchase Cards

Broadcasting Board of Governors

Date: August 1, 2006

For further information contact:

Author: *Brenda Dade*

Phone: 202-205-9461

Email: bdade@ibb.gov

Introduction

As required by the FY 2006 Treasury, Transportation, and HUD appropriation bill (P.L. 109-115), this plan outlines the requirements, controls, and procedures within the Broadcasting Board of Governors designed to mitigate the potential for fraud, misuse, and abuse of Government Purchase cards. As required by the FY 2006 Treasury, Transportation, and HUD appropriation bill (P.L. 109-115), a copy must be sent to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than August 1, 2006.

This plan was developed based on the template provided by David Shea, Director, General Services Administration SmartPay Purchase Card that addresses the concerns of Congress relating to Purchase Card use.

1. Cardholder Training

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) Purchase Card cardholders are required to obtain purchase card training prior to purchase card issuance. It permits non-procurement employees with the authority to make official purchases within their delegated limits in accordance with Federal government and agency policies and procedures. Cardholders are required to certify a Purchase Card Compliance form before card issuance, agreeing to program compliance procedures and disciplinary action if they violate the established policies and procedures.

The BBG purchase card training was developed and customized by an outside contractor with direct assistance from the BBG Agency/Organization Program Coordinator (A/OPC). It is a Power Point presentation with over 115 pages of slides and notes. The training is used in a classroom setting and on-line. Upon completion of the training, participants are required to pass a 25-question test.

The training is a one-day course offered to participants several times a year by a qualified instructor who is knowledgeable about the program, and the agency's internal controls and acquisition policies. Participants may also complete the training on-line when classroom courses are not available with the stipulation that they must retake the training when classroom courses are offered.

Purchase Cardholders must successfully complete refresher training every two years. In FY-2007, the training requirement will change to every three years. It may be completed in a classroom setting, through self-certification using the BBG Worldwide Purchase Card Training Workshop materials, or GSA SmartPay Purchase Card on-line training.

BBG provides comprehensive purchase card training that covers proper usage of the card in the following areas for domestic and overseas purchase card participants:

- Responsibilities of purchase cardholder, approving official, alternate approving official, and designated billing official – certifying official
- Fraud, misuse, and penalties for misuse
- Spending thresholds and training
- Authorized controls of the purchase card and functionality
- Defining the requirement of the purchase
- Review of authorized and unauthorized purchase list prior to the purchase
- Ensure availability of funding
- Required sources of supplies in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 8
- Best value buys
- Avoiding split purchases
- Delegation of authority for purchase card use
- Reconciliation procedures
- Retention of files
- Receipt and maintenance of documentation
- Section 508 and micro-purchases
- Securing the purchase card both during and after use
- Disputes and the cardholder's responsibilities with vendors/merchants
- Personal property management
- Mandatory use of record of transaction purchase card buying log
- Separation of duties
- Ethical conduct

The Approving Official, Alternate Approving Official, Program Coordinator, and Designated Billing Contact/Certifying Officer are also required to successfully complete BBG Purchase Card Training prior to appointment. The training for these individuals is the same as the cardholder with emphasis in the following areas as it pertains to each official's specific duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure purchase cardholder receives required training.
- Ensure purchase cardholder disputes with merchants are resolved in a timely manner.
- Recognize purchase card fraud, misuse, and abuse.
- Report purchase card fraud, misuse, and abuse to the Program Coordinator and A/OPC as soon as recognized.
- Review all purchase card buys prior to purchase for compliance with all applicable regulations.
- Ensure that cardholders are not splitting requirements to stay within the micro-purchase threshold.
- Review and approve purchase cardholder monthly statements of account including all supporting documentation.
- Ensure adequate funding has been obtained on the requisition and obligation prior to the purchase and that adequate controls are in place.
- Ensure that each cardholder requisition is obligated in the Financial Management System.
- Ensure that all purchases made with the card are necessary for accomplishing the mission of the agency.
- Approve monthly invoice for payment ensuring that funding is available prior to payment.
- Reconcile the invoice to the statements each month.
- Review list of authorized and unauthorized purchases and ensure cardholder receives adequate approvals prior to purchase.
- Review purchase card applications prior to submission to A/OPC prior to setup.
- Perform the purchase card annual review
- Obtain Purchase Card Refresher training every two years. This will be changed to every three years effective October 2006.
- Ensure the purchase card is used for mission purposes.

2. Appropriate authorization controls establishment

Does your agency utilize Merchant Category Code (MCC) blocking? Which codes are blocked?

- The BBG utilizes Merchant Category Codes (MCC) to restrict card purchases based on the office's needs. Merchant Category Codes are generally restricted for airlines, airports, hotels, motels (except for rental of conference rooms), vehicle rental, cash advances, liquor/jewelry stores, firearms, and rental or lease of land or buildings. The Agency/Organization Program Coordinator selects the appropriate MCC for the cardholder based on office needs prior to issuance of the purchase card.

What other classification systems are used to prevent spending on unauthorized items, e.g. NAICS, UN codes, NIGP codes? None

Which card restrictions does your agency use to alleviate fraud, misuse, and abuse?

- The BBG purchase card is restricted based on the types of purchases made by assigning a specific MCC. As follows, purchases are blocked by MCC: Airlines, airports, hotels,

motels (except for rental of conference rooms), vehicle rental, cash advances, liquor/jewelry stores, firearms, and rental or lease of land or buildings.

What controls does your agency use to ensure compliance with Federal Laws, Federal and agency regulations, and for monitoring program effectiveness?

- BBG Purchase Card Compliance Reviews for domestic purchase cardholders began in the spring of 2006 and overseas purchase card reviews will be conducted in the fall of 2006. These reviews ensure purchases are compliant with agency and Federal government policies and procedures. The GSA Blueprint for Success: A Guide for Purchase Card Oversight has been incorporated in BBG's review process, and will also be provided to Program Coordinators performing the reviews.
- The Purchase Cardholder's buying logs are submitted monthly to the Office of Financial Operations and A/OPC for review to ensure purchases are appropriate and compliant. Each log is also reviewed and certified by the Approving Official prior to submission. The A/OPC performs reviews of the monthly purchase card activity reports, and requires explanations of questionable purchases.

3. Measures and benchmarks to reduce purchase charge card fraud, misuse, and abuse.

- Ratio of approving official to purchase cardholder is 1:2.
- The average monthly purchase card transactions reviewed per approving official is 15.
- All purchases must be reviewed and approved by the approving official prior to the purchase, ensuring the purchase is compliant with agency and government-wide purchase card policies.
- Approving official must ensure the purchase is official and funds are obligated prior to the purchase card buy.
- Purchase cardholders must maintain purchase card buying logs as purchases are made, not constructed based on the statement of account.
- Approving official must review and sign the monthly purchase card buying log and ensure adequate supporting documentation is provided.
- Purchase card participants are required to attend training prior to appointment.
- A/OPC reviews monthly decline reports for cardholder attempted unauthorized use of the purchase card.
- Purchase card accounts are closed when the cardholder separates from the agency or reassigned to a new position that does not require a card.
- Purchase cardholders and approving officials must submit a qualifications statement prior to appointment to justify need for the card, items to be purchased, training taken, name of certifying official, and purchasing limits.
- The purchase cardholders' buying logs are submitted monthly to the CFO/A and A/OPC for review to ensure purchases are appropriate and compliant.
- The purchase cardholders', approving officials', and certifying officials' duties and responsibilities are separate to avoid a conflict of interest.
- The CFO/A reconciles the invoices to the statements of account each month.
- A/OPC and Program Coordinators perform purchase card compliance reviews and periodic spot checks as needed.

4. Controls, practices, and procedures related to Purchase charge card misuse and abuse

Risk	Risk Management Action	Person Responsible
<i>Description of the risk</i>	<i>Description of the strategy to be used to overcome the risk</i>	<i>Personnel responsible for monitoring the risk and executing the risk management action</i>
<u>Fraud:</u> Any felonious act of corruption or attempt to cheat the government or corrupt the government's agents.	Education and training; create, retrieve and review bank data reports. However, cases of alleged or confirmed fraud activity are referred to the Office of Inspector General.	A/OPC, Program Coordinator and Participants
<u>Split Purchases:</u> Splitting purchase requirements into two or more buys to stay within your single purchase limit.	Simplified Acquisition Training for purchases up to \$25,000 for non-procurement personnel. At least one cardholder in a division has authorization to purchase up to \$25,000, after completing 40 hrs of Simplified Acquisition training. Purchase Card statements are reviewed monthly to identify any purchases that may have been split during the procurement process.	A/OPC, Program Coordinator, and Participants
<u>Oversight:</u> Shortage of available staff time by procurement personnel to maintain adequate program oversight.	Seeking options to expand staff oversight for program maintenance, expansion, and reporting requirements. This will further assist with managing program and preventing purchase card misuse and abuse.	Senior Procurement Executive and Human Resources Staff

What are your agency's procedures for reviewing charge card reports? Which reports do the managers monitor to detect charge card misuse and abuse?

- The agency utilizes the Citibank Decline Authorization, Merchant Category Code (MCC) Summary, Account Activity and Invoice Reports to detect possible purchase card misuse. The decline report is reviewed monthly and lists purchase cardholders who may attempt unauthorized use of the card, which has been declined by the issuing bank. The MCC Summary identifies spending for a specified time period, for any merchant category code (MCC) selected. These reports are reviewed for unauthorized and potential split purchases.

What measures does your agency take to ensure that cardholder statements of account and supporting documentation are reviewed to monitor fraud, misuse, and abuse?

- Prior to the purchase cardholder making the purchase, the Approving Official reviews and approves the request for supplies and services. The cardholder statements of account and supporting documentation are also reviewed and signed monthly by the Approving Official prior to the submission to the Office of Financial Operations (CFO/A). Approving Officials are responsible for review of the documentation and question purchases that may have been inappropriate and/or unauthorized. The cardholders' monthly buying logs are also reviewed for compliance and balances by CFO/A and A/OPC.

What specialized information technology solutions does your agency use to identify and detect possible purchase card misuse? None

Describe any future plans your agency has to automate reviews of cardholder activity to detect instances of misuse, abuse, and fraud.

- BBG plans to enhance regular reviews of possible abuse and misuse of the Purchase Card by incorporating additional Citibank reports, namely the Split Transaction Analysis Report.
- The Split Transaction Analysis Report shows transactions for the same dollar amount on the same day for the same merchant and cardholder. The report also shows each cardholder's single transaction limit. The report can be scanned for any transactions back to back that are close to the Purchase Cardholder's single transaction limit which may indicate that the cardholder has asked the merchant to split the transaction in order to get around his/her single transaction limit.

Describe the process for determining or ensuring that spending and transaction limits are appropriate.

- Purchase card spending and transaction limits are determined based on the cardholder's office's needs as listed on his/her qualification statement. The statement is signed by the approving official and immediate supervisor of the cardholder and approved by the Senior Procurement Executive.

Describe how your agency assures separation of duties among key functions such as making purchases, authorizing purchases and payments, certifying funding, and reviewing and auditing transactions.

- BBG purchase card participants are aware of the separation of duties and internal control functions for the procurement of supplies or services, the distinct functions of the purchase cardholder, approving official, and certifying official and how they must be kept separate. Specific written guidance regarding separation of duties was provided to purchase card participants in August 2004 and is emphasized in the agency's training curriculum. Purchase card participants must also include on their purchase card qualification statement the approving official and certifying official assigned to his/her account. Noted below are separate functions for participants. At no time may one individual act in more than one function described below.
 - Purchase of the approved and funded supplies or services by a Purchase Cardholder;
 - Approval of the supplies or services by an authorized Approving Official;
 - Certification of the required funds by a designated Certification Official to pay for the purchase;
 - Review and audit transaction by the Agency/Organization Program Coordinator, Program Coordinator, or an outside contractor.

What disciplinary actions does your agency impose on cardholders who misuse or abuse the card?

- Purchase cardholders are subject to loss of purchase card authority and disciplinary actions up to and including removal. A purchase participant may be personally liable to the government for the amount of any unauthorized transaction and may be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both under 18 U.S.C. 287.

Are these disciplinary actions made known to all purchase cardholders?

- Yes. Purchase cardholders are aware of these possible actions before they receive the purchase card.



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

September 3, 2008

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate

Dear Senator Feingold:

This is in reply to your letters dated July 29, 2008 to Executive Director Jeffrey N. Trimble, Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and to the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB). Please be advised that the IBB is a subdivision of the BBG. Therefore, this letter responds to both pieces of correspondence. In your letter, you state that Congress had not yet received reports from the IBB for fiscal years 2004-2007. To ensure your records are complete, please find attached two previously submitted reports, one for fiscal year 2004 and the other a combined report for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. The report for fiscal year 2007 follows.

As required by Title VIII, Subtitle C, Section 8306, of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veteran's Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-28), the following information is provided regarding the acquisitions made by the BBG from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States.

In fiscal year 2007, the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States was \$37,326,066, and the total funds spent on goods manufactured outside the United States was \$598,210¹.

There were no waivers granted under the Buy America Act (41 USC 10a) for fiscal year 2007.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey N. Trimble
Executive Director

- Enclosures: (1) Kenneth Y. Tomlinson's letter dated January 6, 2006
(2) Kenneth Y. Tomlinson's letter dated May 30, 2007

All supplies manufactured outside the United States were for use outside the United States. The Buy American Act did not apply.



BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

May 30, 2007

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate

Dear Senator Feingold:

As required by Section 641 of the fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 108-447) and by section 837 of Division A of the fiscal year 2006 Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act (Public Law 109-115), the following information is provided regarding the acquisitions made by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States.

In fiscal year 2005, the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States was \$61,954,124, and the total funds spent on goods manufactured outside the United States was \$584,373¹.

In fiscal year 2006, the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States was \$85,084,586, and the total funds spent on goods manufactured outside the United States was \$792,531².

There were no waivers granted under the Buy America Act (41 USC 10a) for fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Tomlinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman

¹ All supplies manufactured outside the United States were for use outside the United States. The Buy American Act did not apply.

² Procurement in the amount of \$53,743 for supplies manufactured outside the United States was procured under Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the remaining procurements totaling \$738,788 were for use outside the United States. The Buy American Act did not apply.



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

January 6, 2006

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate

Dear Senator Feingold:

As required by Section 641 5(a) of Division F, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004 (PL. 108-109), the following estimated information is provided regarding the acquisitions made by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

In fiscal year 2004, the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States was \$201,192,604.59, and the total funds spent on goods manufactured outside the United States was \$46,819,212.42.

There were no waivers granted under the Buy American Act (41 USC 10a) for fiscal year 2004.

The BBG is refining its procedures to more accurately identify Buy American expenditures for future reporting. We hope that you find this estimate to be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Tomlinson", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

January 6, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As required by Section 641 5(a) of Division F, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004 (PL. 108-109), the following estimated information is provided regarding the acquisitions made by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

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There were no waivers granted under the Buy American Act (41 USC 10a) for fiscal year 2004.

The BBG is refining its procedures to more accurately identify Buy American expenditures for future reporting. We hope that you find this estimate to be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KT", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

January 6, 2006

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. President:

As required by Section 641 5(a) of Division F, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004 (PL. 108-109), the following estimated information is provided regarding the acquisitions made by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Tomlinson", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman