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Welcome to program 65 of VOA Radiogram from the Voice of America.

I'm Kim Andrew Elliott in Washington.

Here is the lineup for today's program (MFSK32 centered on 1500 Hz):

1:36 Program preview (now)  
2:40 Amateur radio Field Day, with image  
5 03 VOA Cold war broadcasts from a ship, with image  
14:25 Scientists push for continued HAARP funding, with image  
23:08 Associazione Italiana Radioascolto beacon, with image  
26:30 Closing announcements

Please send reception reports to radiogram@voanews.com.

And visit voaradiogram.net.

Twitter: @VOARadiogram

<EOT>

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Greetings and CQ FD to radio amateurs in the Americas participating in this weekend's ARRL Field Day. The objective is to work as many stations as possible on all amateur bands (excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

More information at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

Decades after the Cold war, a VOA-Coast Guard Partnership is Honored

Adam Phillips  
June 24, 2014

NEW LONDON, CONN. - In 2014, long after the end of the Cold War, the USCGC Courier may not be familiar to most Americans, citizens of the former Soviet Union or the Eastern bloc. But, between 1952 and 1964, this Coast Guard vessel floated off the coast of Rhodes, Greece, and beamed thousands of hours' worth of Voice of America broadcasts behind the Iron Curtain. Ever since, veterans of this unique partnership have held anniversary reunions to celebrate their mission and the friendships it fostered. This year, they gathered at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut to enjoy an exhibit dedicated to the Courier.

Cold war newsreels about the Coast Guard-VOA partnership sound dated to some, but for people on both sides of the Iron Curtain separating the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe from the West, the struggle between communism and democracy was very real.

"We were real proud of our job. We got through to people who couldn't hear the truth and we kept working to get that message across and it made us feel good to know that they got the truth from somewhere, that in their native countries was censored," said Bob Marriott, who was part of the Courier's original Coast Guard crew.

Along with news, listeners behind the Iron Curtain also relished VOA's musical and cultural programming.

To relay its broadcasts, the Courier used antennas far more powerful than land-based AM stations.

Maintaining a clear signal when the Soviets tried to disrupt or "jam" VOA broadcasts was a constant challenge that Bob Marriott likened to a high stakes game of "cat and mouse."

"We were matching our wits against the guy in Russia that was trying to jam us. And we took pride in having a couple extra frequencies available so when he lined up on our frequency, we clicked him off and got another one and kept the program going. We were the tip of the bayonet. It felt real good," said Marriott.

Unlike most military ships, the Courier did not carry heavy armaments or weaponry, much less bayonets. It relied on Navy vessels to come to its aid if the need arose, which sometimes happened.

The Courier and VOA crews, along with their money, were a boon to Rhodes itself, which had been nearly destroyed during world war II, said Maria Lowther, a Greek who had come to the island as a refugee and later married a Coast Guardsman.

"We did not have enough money to put food on the table and all of a sudden, this ship appears," recalled Lowther. "And the money started flowing. But above all, it was the dignity of the people that was saved. The American spirit was absolutely unbelievable."

The families of Coast Guard and VOA personnel lived on Rhodes, where they bonded with the islanders. The visitors also feasted on the American spirit the VOA provided, especially in the form of rock and roll.

Denise Clemens was an American teenager whose father was an engineer aboard the Courier. She recalled the affections of one Greek.

"I had a boy who was crazy about me and that was because of those VOA broadcasts. He wanted a ticket to America. And he decided I

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was his ticket. And so every time I would walk anywhere he'd ride his bicycle around and around singing, 'You Are My Destiny,' by Paul Anka at the top of his lungs. He might not have known any other English, but he knew those words," said Clemens.

That boy never did win Denise's hand.

For their part, the American Coast Guardsmen and their families consider themselves winners many times over. As one veteran officer who attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's commemorative exhibit put it: "It almost makes you cry. We made lifelong friends and comrades, and we helped win the Cold War without firing a shot. Not bad. Not bad at all."

<http://www.voanews.com/content/decades-after-the-cold-war-a-voa-coast-guard-partnership-is-honored/1944320.html>

See also...

<http://www.uscg.mil/tcyorktown/info/History/Cutters/courier.asp>

[http://www.uscg.mil/history/webcutters/courier\\_wagr410\\_photos.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/history/webcutters/courier_wagr410_photos.asp)

<http://www.navytimes.com/article/20140616/NEWS03/306160038/Coast-Guard-Cold-war-mission-celebrated>

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/fleet/courier.htm>

<EOT>

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Image: USCGC Courier near Rhodes. The red objects on the foredeck are shortwave antennas...

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

HAARP Scientists Push for Funding for Facility in Alaska

George Putic, KI4FNF  
June 18, 2014

One of the most wide-spread conspiracy theories of recent years has concerned a radio-frequency facility in a remote part of Alaska, started by the military in 1993 and known by its acronym

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HAARP. Critics allege the government was trying to control the weather or even peoples minds. Scientists who worked there say the fears are completely unfounded, though, and they now are fighting to preserve the project from being shut down.

The late inventor Nikola Tesla, whose ideas and designs contributed to our modern electricity supply system, claimed it is possible to send power through the air.

Dennis Papadopoulos, a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Maryland, said Tesla was a genius.

"He had a lot of wonderful ideas. About 10 percent were great and the 90 percent ended up being crack-pottish," said Papadopoulos.

Sure, we can send some power through the air, that is how we listen to the radio, watch TV and talk through mobile phones, but radio waves deteriorate with distance, and even more so when they pass through water. That is one of the reasons the U.S. military began the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, or HAARP.

The 12-hectare facility has rows of towering antennas, 180 in all, each with a transmitter. Together, they can send up to 3.6 million watts into the ionosphere, the electrically conductive part of the upper atmosphere that can 'bounce' radio signals back to earth.

Papadopoulos, who was involved in the research at the Alaska facility, said one of the military's major interest at the time the project's conception was communication with submarines on patrol.

"To communicate with submarines, you have to have very low frequencies, which means wavelengths which are a thousand kilometers or larger. To create those with ground stations, you have to have installations that were half the [size of the] state of Wisconsin," he said.

He said the idea was to turn the ionosphere into a giant antenna to transmit signals underwater.

The United States also was concerned with the possibility of a nuclear bomb blast in the atmosphere increasing the density of electrons in the radiation belt and disabling all its satellites.

Papadopoulos said so little was known about the ionosphere that each new experiment led to new discoveries.

"We discovered for the first time that we could create our own little ionosphere, namely we can increase the density of electrons and create patches, which we could use as reflectors of any frequency we want, so we can really guide even gigahertz waves around," he said.

But controlling the weather? Or causing earthquakes? The idea that an individual project could have an effect greater than the polar vortex, the energy of the sun or even the total sum of human interactions with nature is rather difficult to believe, said George Washington University Space Policy Institute Director Scott Pace.

"There are a lot of conspiracy theories because people tend to believe that somewhere, someone, some human is in control. The actual answer is that things are much more chaotic and much more not subject to our control," he said. "Mother Nature does not care and trying to understand what is going on with nature is

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much broader and bigger than any individual project."

Scientific advances and shrinking budgets caused the U.S. military to propose closing the facility this year. Papadopoulos said the international scientific community would like to keep HAARP open, and offers to contribute to its \$5 million annual budget have come from Canada, Britain and Taiwan.

Congress is expected to decide soon whether to accept that help.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/haarp-scientists-push-for-funding-for-facility-in-alaska/1940082.html>

<EOT>

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Image: Antennas for the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program [HAARP] are seen near Gakona, Alaska (AP) ...

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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This is VOA Radiogram from the Voice of America.

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VOA Radiogram has many listeners in Italy, and many of these Italian listeners are members of A.I.R., Associazione Italiana Radioascolto.

The A.I.R. held its 32nd annual meeting on 9-10 May in Turin (Torino). One of the activities at the meeting was the launch, in the River Po, of a bottle containing a 10-milliwatt beacon transmitting on 28325 kHz...

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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Thanks to Fiorenzo Repetto. More information about A.I.R. at <http://www.air-radio.it>

<EOT>

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Thanks to colleagues at the Edward R. Murrow shortwave transmitting station in North Carolina.

I'm Kim Elliott. Please join us for the next VOA Radiogram

This is VOA, the Voice of America.

<EOT>

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<EOT>