



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



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SUBJECT			
Reaction to Over-The-Horizon Radars in HF Amateur Bands			
Society	NRRL	Country:	Norway
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	10
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Introduction

HF Over-The-Horizon (OTH) radars are regularly utilizing the HF amateur radio bands, including exclusive amateur radio bands. NRRL proposes that IARU strengthens its complaints vs. the nations and military powers and alliances operating these HF OTH radars.

Background

The amateur radio bands are constantly subjected to harmful interference. Among the more persevering and devastating forms of interference have been the OTH radars, ever since "the Woodpecker" started its abusive activity August 1, 1976. That noisy wideband activity persisted for 10 years. OTH radars on HF still operate, but in a less devastating manner than "the Woodpecker". Either because they utilize spread spectrum techniques, although generally increasing the level of background noise, or by using smaller frequency segments and frequency-domain techniques, instead of time-domain techniques.

IARUMS have reported a large number of OTH radar infringements of the amateur radio bands over the years. And these infringements are still occurring daily. One gets the impression that the operation of these OTH radars periodically are programmed to operate at certain times of the day at the same programmed frequency segments within amateur radio band segments, including segments in exclusive amateur radio bands.

One would think it should be possible for the OTH radar operators to respect ITU frequency allocations, utilizing military assigned HF frequency segments or frequency segments allocated for OTH radar use.

Key points and proposal

The subjective impression is that annoying OTH radar activity and interference to amateur radio has increased in the HF amateur radio bands during the last year. Therefore it is time for IARU to apply increased pressure on the nations and military powers and alliances operating these HF OTH radars, in order to make them program their OTH radars to avoid infringing with the amateur radio bands.

Recommendations

It is recommended that IARU Region 1 decides to request IARU, based on IARUMS data from all regions, to apply increased pressure on the nations and military powers and alliances operating HF Over-The-Horizon (OTH) radars, in order to make them program their OTH radars in such a way that infringements of the amateur radio bands are avoided.