

STATIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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In the ten or so years I have been DXing, I have only occasionally seen mention of radio stations located in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and I have known only one DXer from that area: Bob Bundy of Truk (I wonder where Bob is at present?). I suppose my increased interest in that area of the world came from the closure of the FEBC station (JOPF-1020 kHz) here on Okinawa with plans to move to Saipan. It was with that interest I did a bit of research and came up with the following information.

The Trust Territory Government owns and operates six AM stations: WSZO-1100, 10kw station located on Majuro; WSZD-1450, a 10kw station on Ponape Island; KUSI-1500, a 1kw station on Kosrae Island; WSZC-1300, a 5kw station on Moen Island; WSZA-1480, a 1kw station, soon to be upgraded to a 10kw output, located on Yap Island; and WSZB-1500 on Koror, which operates with 250 watts which will soon be increased to 5kw.

There are three other AM stations on Saipan: KJQR-1350, a 1kw station owned and operated by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas; WSZE-1050 with 1000 watts, owned and operated by the Pacific Broadcasting Corporation; and KSAI-940, a 1000-watt station owned by the Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC).

From FEBC on Saipan comes this word--the shortage of land makes it difficult to obtain a site on Saipan and for this reason FEBC chose to request the Government for 25 acres of land on the north end of Saipan. At present, the new site has been leased for the tower and the transmitter building but the environmental permits have to be approved before work can begin.

The Saipan Community Church has agreed to allow FEBC use of a section of their land for a studio, and construction of the studio has been completed. Also, permission was granted for temporary use of the area for a small transmitter, and by April 5, 1978, FEBC was on the air with test programs for five hours each day; plans were to increase to 13 hours daily beginning on April 8, but this has not yet been confirmed. With this set-up, the major population areas of Saipan are covered. If plans go as scheduled, FEBC (KSAI-940) will sign on at 6am local time and sign off at 7pm local (2000 to 0900 GMT). At the present, the major language will be English, and Chamorra, the local language, will be added as they are able to get the staff to provide it and a Christian to make the programs for them. The emphasis is more on public service with an element of Christian programming in order to attract listeners from the almost-100% Catholic community.

Plans exist for a small station to be placed in each of the other districts, with Ponape and Truk Islands already having plans on the board; search for land is under way. The shortwave site here on Saipan is still held up pending the acquisition of about 12 acres of land. With the facilities in Manila and Korea still able to operate unmolested, the urgency at this stage is not particularly great.

**RADIO TONGA - MICHAEL S. HARDESTER**

Tonga is an independent Kingdom with a Constitutional Monarchy established in 1862 by King Tupou I. Located on the International Dateline, the Kingdom is composed of over 150 islands, the largest of which is Tongatapu with approximately 100 square miles (259 square kilometers). The islands are scattered over 400 miles (644 kilometers) of sea in the tropical belt south of the equator, approximately 500 miles (805 kilometers) south of Samoa.

There are over 90,000 people in the Kingdom, with the majority living on the main island of Tongatapu; over 20,000 live in Nuku'alofa, the capital city of Tonga. The men divide their time between the sea, plantation plot, King and God...the women keep home. The northern islands in the Kingdom are called the Vava'u Group, the central islands are called the Ha'apai Group, and the Tongatapu Group lies to the south.

Radio Tonga came into existence on July 4, 1961, as a Department of the Tongan Government. On July 1, 1975, Radio Tonga became an Independent Statutory of the Tongan Government. A3Z is the call sign of Radio Tonga, and the transmitter (10kw) and studios of the Tonga Broadcasting Commission are located in Nuku'alofa.

"The Call of the Friendly Islands," Radio Tonga's A3Z, opens and closes each daily broadcast with a playing of the ancient Tongan nose-flutes. A3Z operates in the medium-wave band on 1020kHz, and broadcasts Monday through Saturday (local time) from 1800 to 2100, 2300 to 0100, and 0430 to 1000 hours Greenwich Mean Time. Radio Tonga also broadcasts on Sunday (local time) from 0430 to 1000 hours GMT.

Radio Tonga operates on a commercial basis with advertising revenue as the main source of income. The 30-member staff of Radio Tonga is managed by Tavake Fusimalohi, with assistance from the Programme Supervisor, Siosias H. Fonua.

A typical A3Z weekly broadcast schedule contains a wide variety of programming: news, weather, sports, music, interviews, panel discussions, religious broadcasts, as well as other local productions including dramas, Broadcast to Schools, and listener request programs of a musical nature. Because of the geographical distances involved within the Kingdom of Tonga, personal messages are regularly broadcast to the outlying island groups.

The Call of the Friendly Islands, Radio Tonga, the pulse of the Kingdom is occasionally heard in North America. If you are fortunate in hearing Radio Tonga, a correct reception report will bring an attractive QSL card in return.

**SERVING AMERICAN FORCES, THIS IS K-M-T-H MIDWAY ISLAND  
MICHAEL S. HARDESTER**

Situated some 1150 miles/1851 kilometers northwest of Honolulu and 140 miles/225 kilometers east of the International Date Line is the tiny Pacific island of Midway. Discovered by Americans in 1859 and formally annexed on 28 August 1867, Midway is comprised of two islets: Eastern and Sand; the combined circumference of the reef is 15 miles/24 kilometers. In addition to United States government personnel, the atoll is home for the Laysan and black-footed albatrosses, also known as "gooney birds."

Part of the entertainment on Midway is provided by U.S. Navy Broadcasting Service Detachment Twenty-Seven which is headed by J01 Gary L. Gunderson in addition to three other journalists and an engineer. The broadcasting facilities consist of an AM and FM station plus television. KMTH AM radio signs on at 1700 GMT and operates to 0830 GMT sign-off on weekdays. On Saturday, the stations signs on at 1800 GMT with 0100 GMT sign-off. Sunday sign-on comes at 1800 GMT and continues to its 0200 GMT sign-off. The transmitter is a CCA AM 250-D with 250 watts on 920 kHz. The antenna "is a shunt feed water tower."

KMTH FM is completely automated with continual operation twenty-four hours daily with periodic station identification during the hour. Operating on 94.0 MHz, the FM transmitter is a Gates BFE 50-C with 50 watts into a Jampro model JAT 1/4-L antenna.

Operating on TV channel 4, KMTH-TV begins its broadcast day at 0300 GMT and continues until 1100 GMT sign-off on weekdays. On the weekend, sign-on is at 2200 GMT and, as on weekdays, continues until 1100 GMT. The transmitter is an Acrodyne TT-230VL with 100 watts of power into a Jampro model JA-TV 2/4 antenna.

The AM radio commenced transmissions on 18 April 1953 at 7:00 PM local time (0600 GMT on 19 April). The dates when the FM and TV stations began broadcasting are not exactly known, though the FM station had a target date of 10 May 1976. Television began in the mid 1960s with color transmissions beginning in January of 1977. The KMTH stations are an independent affiliate of the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS).