



## WASHINGTON WHISPERS

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# Ham Operator Runs Unlicensed Militia Station

Last December, the Federal Communications Commission cited two Amateur Radio operators for operating on high frequency spectrum that was not authorized by their ham radio licenses. Both are leaders in the militia movement. The Kentucky State Militia (KSM), "...a group of armed American patriots who oppose the powers of the federal government" is one of many militia-type organizations that appear to be at war with the United States. Its radio activities have been under investigation by the Federal Communications Commission since it apparently uses ham and other frequencies for its communications and broadcast needs. KSM does not recognize U.S. government or FCC authority.

## The U.S. militia movement

According to the FBI, the growth of the organized American militia movement represents one of the most significant social trends of the 1990s. Few Americans knew of the militia movement or anti-government extremists until the morning of April 19, 1995, when a bomb blast destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Although no apparent direct connection exists between members of any militia group and the bombing, those arrested held and expressed views supported by some militia groups.

The stated goal of the militia movement is to defend and protect the United States Constitution from those who want to take away the rights of Americans. The federal government's role in various confrontations have further fueled conspiracy beliefs that the government is becoming more brutal and is attempting to reverse constitutional guarantees. The Freemen believe they have the right to renounce their citizenship, after which they do not have to comply with any laws or rules and the federal government would have no influence over them.

Many militias claim to represent the beliefs of the founding fathers that predate the Revolutionary War. Colonists at that time rebelled against the British government's practice of oppression and unjust taxation. Various present-day militias pattern their actions on what they believe their ancestors would do if they were alive today.

The FBI focuses on radical elements of the militia movement capable and willing to commit violence. Now a new militia concern has emerged. The illegal use of unlicensed radio communication.

## The Kentucky State Militia

KSM is headed up by "State Commanding Officer" Charlie Puckett (Nicholasville, Kentucky) who holds Amateur Radio station license KF4ZMG. Puckett was censured by the FCC for operating on 80 meters (3.860 MHz), a frequency not authorized

to Technician Class licensees. Puckett denied the violation, stating that the transmissions were under the "control" of Stephen Anderson (AA8DP), who, as an Extra Class ham operator, is licensed for operation on that frequency.

Kentucky State Militia Radio (KSMR) was engineered and hosted by KSM "Major" Steve Anderson (Somerset, KY). Anderson was also warned by the Federal Communications Commission in December for his operations just below the 40-meter ham band on 6.890 MHz, a frequency not authorized to Amateur Radio at all. Puckett denied monitoring reports that the KSM or its members were involved in the alleged transmissions, which reportedly jammed WWFV, a licensed commercial shortwave radio broadcaster operating out of Copperhill, Tennessee. WWFV transmits on several HF frequencies including 6.890 MHz during the evening.

When the FCC requested specific details from Anderson about the Puckett 80 meter transmissions, Anderson returned his Amateur Radio license to the FCC claiming that the agency "...is an agent of a foreign corporation" with no authority over his radio operation. Expounding the Freeman philosophy, he also stated that he does "...not reside in any territory or possession of the Federal Government of the United States of America..." and that he was "...not subject to any regulation by this fictitious entity."

Anderson launched unlicensed KSMR on March 3 and broadcast nightly on 3260 kHz USB between 0300 and 0400 UTC. The live programs, supposedly sponsored by the KSM, began with a song called "Take My Gun (From My Cold Dead Hands)" and militia announcements. "...And then," according to a *Clandestine Radio Watch* (CRW) writeup, "...proceed into a commentary [on] Christianity, alleged U.S. government cover-ups, and justifications for the existence of patriot militia movement - which perceives itself to be defending the country against a corrupted and conspiratorial federal government."

CRW said Anderson announced during a broadcast on Friday, March 9, that he received another letter from the FCC, presumably for his transmissions as KSMR. He said there is no point in citing him. "This is the Kentucky Militia station.... We don't want to hear from you [because] you don't have anything to say to us. You don't have any authority over us. We are asserting our First Amendment Rights here and are protecting them with the Second Amendment." The Second Amendment, of course, refers to the right to bear arms. Strong words indeed.

Anderson told CRW that KSMR operates at

800 watts using "...an extended-double zep antenna at 110-feet (36 meters)." The antenna, he said, provides for a 3dB gain over a regular dipole antenna, and plans are in the works to employ a 3kW amplifier he called the "rock crusher." CRW added that "...the station is already heard coast-to-coast and has even been monitored in Western Europe."

Supposedly on Wednesday, March 14, Anderson tested 6880 kHz and claimed that "the station will soon carry live programming from the Genesis and Heritage radio networks through a satellite feed. If all goes as planned, the station will operate full-time from 9 a.m. (1400 UTC) to 12 midnight (0500 UTC) on 3260, 6880, and 12181 kHz USB..." which is 10 kHz below WWFV "...to avoid interference." But the programming never materialized.

CRW quoted Puckett as saying "KSMR is truly a national effort..." with \$2800 in donations collected for the station. Supposedly KSMR is inspiring other militia groups to take to the unlicensed airwaves.

According to CRW, the FCC took KSM's defiance seriously and was planning to close the station, levy a minimum \$7,500 fine and seize the transmitting equipment. Anderson said he was "...not worried. There's about 13,000 of us down here...."

According to a web-posted agenda, Anderson was scheduled to teach a seminar on communications and antennas to members of other state militias attending a "major" multi-state rally in April at Norm Creek, Kentucky.

KLSM Commander Puckett, who appears uneasy about a confrontation with the FCC, denied that KSMR is an arm of the Kentucky State Militia, instead it is sponsored "...by militias and patriots all across this country." But the broadcasts mirrored KSM's news content.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, KSMR disappeared from 3260 kHz after three weeks of broadcasting. A March 24<sup>th</sup> CRW bulletin said it had "...learned that the operator of KSMR, Major Steve Anderson, may possibly return to the air with a new station. This operation may be a militia-supported station, but may have a different callsign and fewer, if any, ties to the KSM." We have now heard that the station will be called "The United Patriot Network."

(Excerpts for this story taken from CRW's website at: <http://www.clandestineradio.com/watch/latest.htm>. Info on KSM can be found on the Web at: <http://www.freekentucky.com/ksm/contents.htm> and <http://militia.clarksrivier.com>.)