



**Broadcasting
Board of
Governors**



VOICE OF AMERICA

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

OFFICE OF CUBA BROADCASTING

RADIO FREE ASIA

MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU



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RFA Mandarin Service broadcaster Camille Jao broadcasts from one of RFA's Washington, D.C., studios.

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ON THE COVER: Ahmed Abdel Halim Sanad and Berta Nohra, anchors for one of Alhurra's daily newscasts, *The World Today*, are shown on the set; VOAMobile.com is a specially formatted version of the VOA Web site for hand-held devices; VOA Afghan Service stringer Rahim Gul Sarwan interviews on the streets of Kabul.

To the President and the Congress of the United States of America:

On behalf of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), and in compliance with Section 305(a) of Public Law 103-236, the International Broadcasting Act of 1994, I am pleased to submit the BBG's annual report for 2006.

This eleventh annual report of the BBG summarizes the recent activities of all U.S. government-funded, nonmilitary international broadcasting, encompassing the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, and the International Broadcasting Bureau.

Over the last year our global weekly audiences have shown continued growth, rising from 140 to 155 million and continuing the expansion from the pre-9/11 level of 100 million. This growth has occurred in the face of intensified international media competition, selected foreign government jamming of our radio and TV signals and blocking of our Internet sites, and widespread anti-Americanism. In the mission-critical areas of the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, U.S. international broadcasting collectively now reaches some 60 million people weekly.

Our story, however, is not simply one of audience growth. Our global research also shows that not only are we reaching more people in vital areas, but also significant majorities of those we reach find our news and information to be reliable.

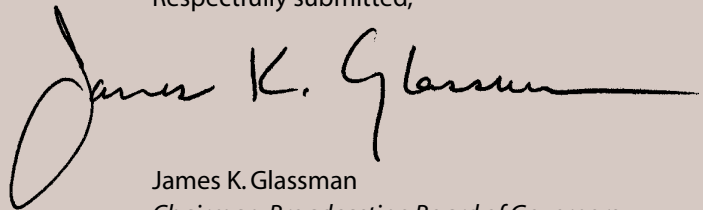
This success is a tribute to the creativity and hard work of the BBG's 3400 employees worldwide. It is they who develop and implement the strategies across more than 100 countries, broadcasting in some 60 languages, amidst the most difficult media and political environments. It is they who day in and day out hand the information-deprived of this world a lifeline of credible news, current events, ideas, debates, and interactive dialogue.

We're not just ordinary journalists on a familiar beat. Our mandate is to promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding. We do that by broadcasting accurate, objective, and balanced news and information about America and the world to audiences overseas—as set forth by Congress in the principles and standards for U.S. international broadcasting.

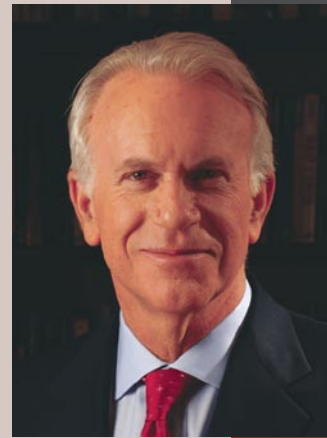
It's what I call "journalism with purpose." Given the resurgence of authoritarianism and the rise of extremism in the world today, there can be little doubt as to the ongoing urgency of our work.

As the new chairman of the BBG, I look forward to working cooperatively across the government and with all levels of U.S. international broadcasting to carry out our work with yet greater impact and clarity of purpose.

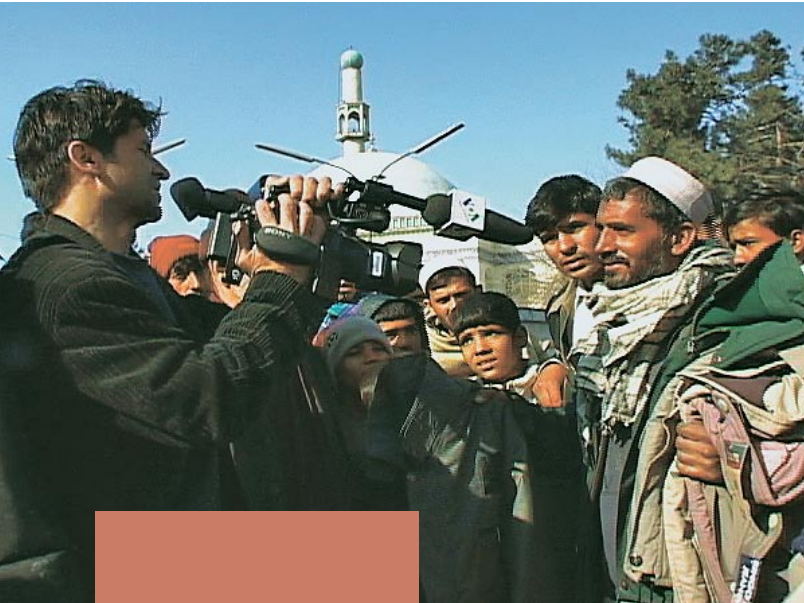
Respectfully submitted,



James K. Glassman
Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors



Overview



A VOA Afghanistan Service TV stringer conducts a man-on-the-street interview in Kabul.

Broadcasting to the

GLOBAL

English
Special English*

EASTERN/ CENTRAL EUROPE

Albanian
Bosnian
Croatian
Greek
Macedonian
Montenegrin
Romanian
Serbian

EURASIA

Armenian
Avar
Azerbaijani
Bashkir
Belarusian
Chechen
Circassian
Crimean Tatar
Georgian
Russian
Tatar
Ukrainian

In 2006, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) continued a fundamental transformation of U.S. nonmilitary broadcasting that began in October, 1999 in pursuit of its central mission: to promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding by broadcasting accurate, objective and balanced news and information about the United States and the world to audiences abroad. Those audiences receive dynamic and creative programming that inspires intellectual curiosity and supports aspirations for political, economic, social and human rights. This transformation grows out of the post-Cold War and post-September 11 environments, recognizing new priorities in where to broadcast and how we reach key audiences around the world. The changes implemented by the BBG ensured that international broadcasting remains an effective tool to counter misrepresentations of the U.S. and its policies, and provide accurate news and



RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty

(Grantee)



Radio Free Asia

(Grantee)

information and vibrant intellectual discussions and debates to those deprived of a free media.

The BBG supervises all nonmilitary U.S. broadcast entities and provides programming in 60 languages via radio, television, and the Internet. All BBG broadcast services adhere to the broadcasting standards and principles of the International Broad-



Broadcasting Board of Governors

World in 60 Languages

Broadcasting Board of Governors

International Broadcasting Bureau



MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS, INC.

(Grantee)



casting Act of 1994 which include reliable, accurate and comprehensive news; balanced presentations of U.S. thought, institutions, and policies as well as discussions about those policies; information about developments throughout the world; and a variety of opinions from nations around the world.

The support of the Administration and Congress in 2006 allowed the BBG to implement a number of program expansions and innovations based on the rigorous use of research to identify target audiences and their program preferences. Voice of America's (VOA) Persian-language television dramatically expanded its live satellite news and information broadcasts

AFRICA

- Afan Oromo
- Amharic
- English to Africa*
- French to Africa
- Hausa
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Ndebele
- Portuguese to Africa
- Shona
- Somali
- Swahili
- Tigrigna

NEAR EAST/ NORTH AFRICA

- Arabic
- Kurdish
- Turkish

CENTRAL ASIA

- Kazakh
- Kyrgyz
- Tajik
- Turkmen
- Uzbek

SOUTH ASIA

- Bangla
- Dari
- Hindi
- Pashto
- Persian
- Urdu

EAST ASIA

- Burmese
- Cantonese
- Indonesian
- Khmer
- Korean
- Lao
- Mandarin
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Uyghur
- Vietnamese

LATIN AMERICA

- Creole
- Spanish

*Targeted English-Language Programming Stream



Nadine Al-Bdair, host of *Equality*, a program dedicated to the rights of women, interviews Under Secretary of State Karen Hughes.

to Iran from one hour to four hours of original programming repeated three times daily, paving the way for further increases in 2007. In the Middle East, Alhurra television provided around-the-clock coverage of the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, as well as live coverage of elections in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait and the Palestinian Territories. A new broadcast stream, Alhurra Europe was launched to give the U.S. a connection with Arabic speakers in Europe. VOA launched a daily 60-minute TV news program in Dari and Pashto broadcast directly to viewers via satellite and affiliates while Radio Free Afghanistan and VOA continued to rank as two of the top three international broadcasters in Afghanistan. In August, the launch of a new Pashto-language service, Deewa Radio, gained immediate popularity among the 25 million Pashto speakers living along the Afghanistan-

Pakistan border. In Pakistan, VOA's prime-time television show, *Beyond the Headlines*, became Pakistan's most widely watched satellite channel broadcast, and Urdu-language radio, Aap Ki Duniyaa, showed a doubling of its audience since 2004. A new 800Kw medium wave (AM) transmitter boosted its reach into Pakistan. Despite continued efforts to jam or restrict its broadcasts, the BBG expanded its reach into North Korea. Radio Free Asia (RFA) developed a two-and-one-half-hour live format, increasing original programming by 30 minutes while VOA broadcasts over 21 hours every week.

Independent auditors have given BBG financial statements an unqualified "clean" opinion for the third year in a row. This is the highest rating an agency can achieve.



A fuller description of these accomplishments, information on each broadcast entity, the BBG's FY 2006 financial statements and copies of past BBG Annual Reports can be found on the BBG Web site, www.bbg.gov.

During a town hall meeting in June at RFE/RL's broadcast center in Prague, members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors applaud the winners of the 2006 David Burke Award—the staff of RFE/RL's former bureau in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (currently closed after the Uzbek government revoked RFE/RL's accreditation). From left to right are RFE/RL Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Jeffrey Trimble, former BBG Chairman Kenneth Y. Tomlinson and BBG Governors Blanquita Cullum, Joaquin Blaya, Jeffrey Hirschberg, Edward Kaufman and Steven Simmons.

Voice of America



Danforth Austin
VOA Director

Employees:
1,173

FY 2006 Budget:
\$166.6 million

Weekly Hours
Broadcast:
1,370.4

Languages:
45

Well-known as a trusted source of worldwide news and information for 65 years, VOA focused this past year on improving programming and reaching the strategically important countries of Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, China, Indonesia, Russia, and Venezuela. With State Department assistance, VOA also established a critical broadcast service to Somalia.

Technological advances in broadcasting also enabled VOA to deliver its high-quality programming on television, the Internet, VOAMobile for Internet-enabled devices, Real Simple Syndication feeds, and podcasts. VOA's worldwide TV audience quadrupled to



Shaista Sadat is one of the anchors for the VOA Pashto Service's television program TV Ashna.

VOA Tibetan Service reporter Brent Hurd covers a story in rural India.



42 million in 2006 from 10 million in 2002, and overall traffic to VOA's popular VOANews.com Web site increased 32 percent from 2005 levels to more than 44 million visits in 2006.

VOA constantly strives to keep its content fresh and compelling and is committed to using the latest technologies in news gathering and distribution. All VOA programs adhere to the VOA Charter and inform audiences about the United States, regional and world news, American thoughts and institutions, and U.S. policy.

2006 HIGHLIGHTS:

■ Programming on VOA's satellite television Persian Service increased four-fold with four one-hour shows of news and information broadcast live daily during prime time in Iran.

■ According to an InterMedia survey issued in 2006, VOA Kurdish scored a 31 percent audience share among the Kurds of Iraq. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, a longtime listener to VOA Kurdish, Persian, and English broadcasts, remarked: "VOA's continuous promotion of the values of democracy, freedom, and human rights has influenced

our positive view of the United States as a champion of liberation from dictatorship and totalitarianism."

■ On September 30, VOA launched TV Ashna to Afghanistan with two 30-minute news-casts broadcast nationwide six days a week in Dari and Pashto via Radio-TV Afghanistan. In July, VOA launched Deewa Radio in Pashto to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This critical 24/7 broadcast began with three hours of daily global and regional news, expanding to six hours daily in March 2007.

■ VOA's Urdu TV magazine *Beyond the Headlines* is the leading program on cable/satellite news channels during its time slot in Pakistan, according to GEO-TV, Pakistan's leading independent television provider, and the affiliate on which the VOA show is carried Monday through Friday in evening prime

English to Africa radio/TV journalist James Butty interviews Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia.



time. The combined radio and television audience for VOA Urdu in Pakistan is approaching six million, while additional listeners in India and the Persian Gulf continue to tune in to Radio Aap ki Duniya's daily 12 hours of news, features, and music.

■ In 2006, VOA worked toward the launch of its half-hour, daily evening broadcast to Somalia on February 12, 2007. Aimed at the millions of Somali-speakers in Somalia, Djibouti, eastern Ethiopia, the Northern District of Kenya, and the diaspora, the broadcasts provide millions of Somali speakers with

■ VOA's popular *Studio 7* radio program targeted to Zimbabwe was singled out for praise at a forum held by the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies as "one of the few bright spots for the Zimbabwean people." The Association of International Broadcasting commended *Studio 7* reporter Caroline Gombakomba for a series of interviews entitled "Voices of Zimbabwe's Dispossessed."

■ VOA's French-to-Africa Service covered in-country the first presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 40 years and the runoff between President Kabila and Vice President Bemba.

■ Hits on a VOA Chinese Branch mirror site passed the one billion mark in 2006. Since its inception in 2002, the alternative Web site has enabled visitors to gain access to multimedia news and information carried by the official VOA Web site, which remains vigorously blocked in China. Prominent Chinese-Americans such as human rights activist Harry Wu discuss and answer dozens of questions on the VOA Chinese Web site's interactive live chat program about topics that would otherwise be heavily censored and blocked by Beijing.

■ Five national television networks in Indonesia began airing new programs from VOA during Indonesian prime time.

■ In October, VOA expanded its broadcasts to North Korea by 30 minutes to three hours daily and is working to increase programming to five hours daily. VOA's Korean broadcasts deliver in-depth news and information



VOA journalists Jeff Swicord (left) and Al Pessin cover the war in Iraq.

accurate, up-to-date news and information, especially to 17- to 35-year-old Muslims.

■ VOA had dramatic growth in audience for its Amharic broadcasts to the Horn, increasing from 4.8 percent of adults in Ethiopia in 2005 to 18 percent in 2006. Nearly one in five adults surveyed listens to VOA regularly in Amharic.

on developments in and around North Korea, particularly human rights conditions and the security threats posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile activities. A 2006 InterMedia survey of North Korean defectors found 36% of the defectors said they had listened to VOA at least once a week while in North Korea.

■ The first VOA-trained Spanish TV journalist stringers provided critical on-the-scene television coverage of the December Venezuelan presidential election.

■ The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences honored VOANews.com's Special English Web page as an "Official Honoree" in the 10th Annual Webby Awards, the Oscars of the Internet.



VOA Central News Beijing correspondent Luis Ramirez, winner of the BBG's David Burke Award for his daring reports from North Korea, stands in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.



VOA Mandarin reporter Nike Ching (right front) in Taipei, Taiwan, competes with local reporters to interview Nationalist Party Chairman Ma Yingjeo.

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty



Jeffrey Gedmin
*RFE/RL President
(2007)*

Employees:
538

FY 2006 Budget:
\$75.3 million

Weekly Hours
Broadcast:
1,027.6

Languages:
28

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) broadcasts to Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Southwestern Asia. In countries stretching from Belarus to Afghanistan and from the Arctic Sea to the Persian Gulf, listeners rely on RFE/RL's daily news, analysis and current affairs programming to provide a coherent, objective account of events in their region and the world. RFE/RL broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of programming a week from its operations center in Prague, Czech Republic, and 21 bureaus in its broadcast region. Its corporate headquarters are located in Washington, D.C. In October 2006, RFE/RL broke ground for a new, state-of-the-art broadcast center in Prague, scheduled for completion in 2008.



On October 13, 2006, guests of honor broke ground for RFE/RL's new, state-of-the-art broadcast center in Prague, Czech Republic. From left to right: RFE/RL Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Jeffrey Trimble, Skanska General Director Zdenek Burda, ORCO Senior Vice President Ales Vobruba, former BBG Chairman Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, BBG Governor Steven Simmons, Czech Foreign Minister Alexandr Vondra, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Colleen Graffy, Lord Mayor of Prague Pavel Bem, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Richard Graber, ORCO President and CEO Jean-Francois Ott, Mayor of Prague-10 Milan Richter.

RFE/RL Tbilisi Correspondent Koba Liklikadze interviews Speaker of Parliament Nino Burjanadze on the Russia-Georgia wine issue and internal Georgian political topics.

Through the transmission of its programs via the Internet and over shortwave, AM, FM, UKV, cable and satellite frequencies, RFE/RL provides local and regional reporting of news and developments to audiences denied access to free, independent media and ruled by repressive, anti-democratic governments.



2006 HIGHLIGHTS

■ RFE/RL's Belarus Service provided exclusive, 24/7 team coverage—on the air and on its Web site—of the construction of a tent settlement on Minsk's October Square to protest the results of Belarus' March 19 presidential election and the March 24 nighttime raid by riot police that dismantled the opposition encampment. On March 25, RFE/RL's Belarus Service correspondent Liubou Lunieva was with demonstrators in Minsk when security forces attacked; listeners across Belarus could hear the explosions of the tear gas grenades and then Lunieva's voice as she struggled to overcome the effects of the gas.

■ RFE/RL provided comprehensive coverage of the brutal murder of one of Russia's most prominent independent journalists, Anna Politkovskaya—whose last public interview

was aired by RFE/RL on October 5, just two days before her death.

■ RFE/RL aired daily updates on the November poisoning and death of former Russian agent Aleksandr Litvinenko. Highlights of RFE/RL's coverage included exclusive interviews with Litvinenko's friend Aleksandr Goldfarb, who spoke to the Russian Service's London correspondent about Litvinenko's worsening condition just hours before he died, and Akhmed Zakayev, foreign minister in Chechnya's separatist government, who lives in London and was a close friend of Litvinenko's. The North Caucasus Service, meanwhile, made the last recording of Litvinenko in a November 16 interview conducted just before he entered intensive care.



RFE/RL Belarusian Service Minsk correspondent Liubou Lunieva, flanked by riot police, covered a demonstration in March in Minsk, protesting the results of the controversial presidential election.

■ On June 28, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gave an exclusive interview to Radio Free Afghanistan during her visit to Kabul. In the interview, Secretary Rice assured the Afghan people that “the American people are committed to Afghanistan’s future.... We are not leaving again, as we did in the 1980s. This time, our strategic relationship is strong and it is going to be a long-term relationship.”

■ In May, the Tajik Service had a correspondent on the scene at the Tajik-Kyrgyz border within a few hours of a deadly attack by gunmen there. While the

domestic Tajik media limited their coverage to repeating the sparse official statements from the Tajik Interior Ministry, RFE/RL was able to provide listeners with details from both sides of the border. On the Tajik side, correspondent Masum Imomov gave hourly updates on the situation.

■ Throughout the first 10 days of November, the Kyrgyz Service preempted regular programming to go live with reports of street protests. The Service had correspondents posted at all the hot spots in Bishkek and maintained a careful balance by interviewing both government officials and opposition leaders. The day the rallies started the Service’s weekly television show *Inconvenient Questions* featured opposition leader

Almaz Atambayev. It was the only broadcast that day to offer a viewpoint other than that of the government.

■ On November 5, Radio Free Iraq (RFI) broke into regular programming to bring a live report with the announcement of the verdict in the trial of Saddam Hussein. RFI followed the live announcement with a special half-hour program of reactions reported live from five Iraqi cities—Baghdad, Tikrit, Mosul, Amara, and Basra—as well as Amman in neighboring Jordan.

■ RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service provided a global perspective on Ukraine’s fiercely contested March 26 parliamentary elections. Ukrainian Service radio programs featured live reports from across Ukraine and around the world, while radio listeners and viewers of Ukraine’s TV5 channel got up-to-the-minute reporting on reactions to the vote from RFE/RL correspondents in London, Brussels, Rome, Warsaw, and New York.

■ In 2006, RFE/RL launched and promoted television programs in Kyrgyzstan, Bosnia, Macedonia, Georgia and Ukraine, in partnership with local television outlets using RFE/RL-branded content and talent. In these and other markets, television is the most popular medium for news and information, and results indicate that RFE/RL’s reach increases when television products complement its radio and Internet offerings.





Czech Prime Minister TopolaneK answered questions at a news conference at RFE/RL's Prague Broadcasting Center in October. From left to right, Economic Forum Council Chairman Zygmunt Berdychowski, RFE/RL Communications Division Director Don Jensen, Prime Minister TopolaneK, and TopolaneK's secretary, Radim Ochvat.



RFE/RL Kazakh Service correspondent Danabek Bimenov interviews a master falconer at an international falconry trial held in the spring of 2006 in the Alatau Mountains near Almaty, Kazakhstan.



Ukrainian Service Acting Director Natalia Tchourikova interviews Belarusian opposition leader Alyksandr Milinkevich, in October in Prague.

Radio Free Asia



Libby Liu
RFA President

Employees:
245

FY 2006 Budget:
\$30.4 million

Weekly Hours
Broadcast:
252.0

Languages:
9

Radio Free Asia (RFA) is a private, non-profit news organization providing daily broadcasts in nine languages to listeners in Asia whose governments restrict freedom of information and expression. RFA broadcasts accurate and timely news and information, along with a range of voices and opinions from within Asia—with the aim of demonstrating freedom of expression over the airwaves and online.

RFA focuses primarily on news and features of unique and specific relevance to its target countries. Through shortwave transmission and the Internet, RFA broadcasts in Mandarin, Cantonese, Uyghur, three dialects of Tibetan, Burmese, Vietnamese, Korean,

Parliamentary candidates for the Tibetan Government-in-Exile debate issues live on RFA's Tibetan Service.



Uyghur musicians Ali Sakiyef (front) and Adil Niyazof perform for a feature segment on RFA's Uyghur Service.

Lao, and Khmer. All broadcasts originate from RFA's Washington, D.C., headquarters. RFA also has bureaus in Hong Kong, Taipei, Phnom Penh, Dharamsala, Bangkok, Seoul, and Ankara, as well as a vast network of stringers around the world. News reports and call-in programs allow listeners to express views and exchange ideas.

RFA is dedicated at all levels to maximizing its use of new and emerging technologies to expand the reach of its broadcasts. RFA continues to build its reputation as the East Asian news service of record, with RFA news stories reproduced daily in major media around the world. RFA follows the strictest journalistic standards of objectivity, integrity, and balance. Informing East Asian listeners from all social strata and maintaining credibility among them are RFA's top priorities.

The BBG appointed Libby Liu as RFA President in 2005, succeeding RFA's founding president, Richard Richter.

2006 HIGHLIGHTS:

■ RFA Korean went to a two-and-one-half-hour live format, increasing original programming by 30 minutes. When North Korea conducted missile launches, followed several months later by a nuclear test, the Korean Service dropped its regular format in order to provide in-depth reporting, filling in the gaps left by official North Korean media. The Service added seven weekly features written by North Korean defectors and increased its coverage of human trafficking of defectors inside China.

■ RFA Mandarin's coverage reflected increased resistance in China to local corruption. There were exclusive reports on villagers taking officials hostage in three separate locations after officials forced them to sell their land at below-market rates. Hundreds



of heavily armed policemen had to move in to free the hostages.

■ The Uyghur Service specialized in stories that are banned in China and rarely covered by the international media such as unpaid child labor practices, widespread drug addiction, environmental pollution, and the arrest of a literary editor. Other reports covered expanded restrictions on Muslims in China's Uyghur Autonomous Region, forbidding certain categories of citizens, such as state employees and those under 18, from entering mosques.

BBG Governor Joaquin Blaya (right) talks with RFA Lao Service director Viengsay Luangkhot (left) and RFA Bangkok Bureau office manager Pimuk Rakkhanam at Radio Free Asia's news bureau in Bangkok.



■ RFA Khmer reported on official corruption, land grabs, illegal logging, and starvation in remote villages—all issues that are not well reported in the Cambodian press. In many of these cases, non-governmental organizations—and Cambodian officials, who came under public pressure—responded with assistance that made a real difference in people's lives.

■ When the Burmese army began attacking ethnic Karen villages in the heaviest offensive in 10 years, RFA was able to send a reporter across the border to get first-hand accounts. RFA also began a five-minute weekly news round-up in five of Burma's major ethnic languages.

■ The Vietnamese Service reported extensively on a new democracy movement called Bloc 8406, named for the date of its founding. The police have harassed and detained some of the group's members, but Vietnam's state-run media have suppressed the story.

■ RFA Lao reported extensively on issues not covered by the tightly-controlled Laotian state media, such as bribery and corruption, the plight of Hmong refugees from Laos, the killing of Laotian dissidents in Thailand, and problems in the country's education system. In many cases, the Laotian government was forced to respond to RFA reports or to do follow-up reports in its own media.

■ In March 2006, RFA's Tibetan Service organized six roundtable programs in India and Nepal in preparation for Tibetan exile government elections. The roundtables provided a forum for voters to question candidates, which was a first for Tibetans.

■ RFA Cantonese excelled in its surrogate role as the Communist Party tightened control over Hong Kong media, with reports on land confiscation, Web censorship, Jiangxi student riots, and environmental pollu-



Radio Free Asia Khmer Service reporter Sok Ratha is congratulated by BBG Governors Blanquita Cullum and Ted Kaufman. Mr. Sok was honored with a Burke Award for his courageous reporting from remote provinces in Cambodia.

tion—winning an award for its coverage of lead poisoning in China villages.

■ Ten unique interactive Web sites—nine in Asian languages with eleven scripts—add a multimedia dimension to RFA's broadcasts. The sites creatively feature eye-witness accounts of events in video and blogs; Web staff is actively involved in outreach online, promoting RFA news and proxy access via newsletter and in chat rooms.



Academy Award-winning film director Ang Lee speaks with Radio Free Asia and other news outlets after the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting



Pedro Roig
OCB Director

Employees:
153

FY 2006 Budget:
\$36.9 million

Weekly Hours
Broadcast:
330.0

Language:
Spanish

The Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) oversees the operations of Radio Martí and TV Martí from its headquarters in Miami, Florida. Radio Martí went on the air May 20, 1985, and TV Martí went on the air March 27, 1990. They serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of accurate, objective, and comprehensive news to the people of Cuba.

Radio Martí broadcasts news and a variety of features and news analysis programs seven days a week, 24 hours a day. TV Martí broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on Hispasat, and 5 hours a day, 6 days a week on AeroMartí, including two 30-minute live newscasts each day.



OCB's Diana Molineaux, host of *Voces (Voices)*, interviews European ambassadors of ex-socialist countries on how they use their experience to help their countries transition to democracy (recorded at VOA's studios in Washington).

AeroMartí, OCB's new airborne broadcast platform, is shown in flight.



2006 HIGHLIGHTS:

■ In October, OCB's new airborne broadcast platform, AeroMartí, made its maiden broadcast flight with full operational capabilities, including a live TV satellite antenna. As a result, for the first time in TV Martí's history, in addition to news and information, the Cuban people were treated to live TV broadcasts of Major League Baseball's World Series. OCB now transmits 5 hours a day, 6 days a week on AeroMartí.

■ OCB implemented changes that enhanced TV Martí news programming, including a two-anchor newscast using a new virtual set design. There are now two evening newscasts (6 and 10 p.m.) for the new airborne broadcast platform.

■ In October, the Center for the Understanding of Cubans of Afro Descent and the U.S. Interests Section in Havana sponsored a video conference at OCB with Cuban activists in Havana. Leading members of the civil rights movement attended, including James Meredith, the University of Mississippi's first African-American student.

■ TV Martí's Programs Department, partnering with the Mississippi Consortium for Inter-

national Development, is recording and producing interviews with leading participants of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement to develop a program entitled "Voices." Its purpose is to help Afro-Cubans take part in a peaceful transition to democracy.

■ In April 2006, TV Martí produced a special program with actor Andy Garcia when he visited the TV Martí studios. Mr. Garcia discussed his new movie, *Lost City*, and his childhood growing up as the son of a Cuban immigrant in the U.S.

■ In August 2006, Director of Broadcast Operations Jorge Luis Hernández and Radio Martí News Director Clara Domínguez participated in a special teleconference organized by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana with Cuban independent journalists. Discussions focused on the challenges journalists face in a closed society.

Middle East Broadcasting Networks



Brian Conniff
MBN President

Employees:
260

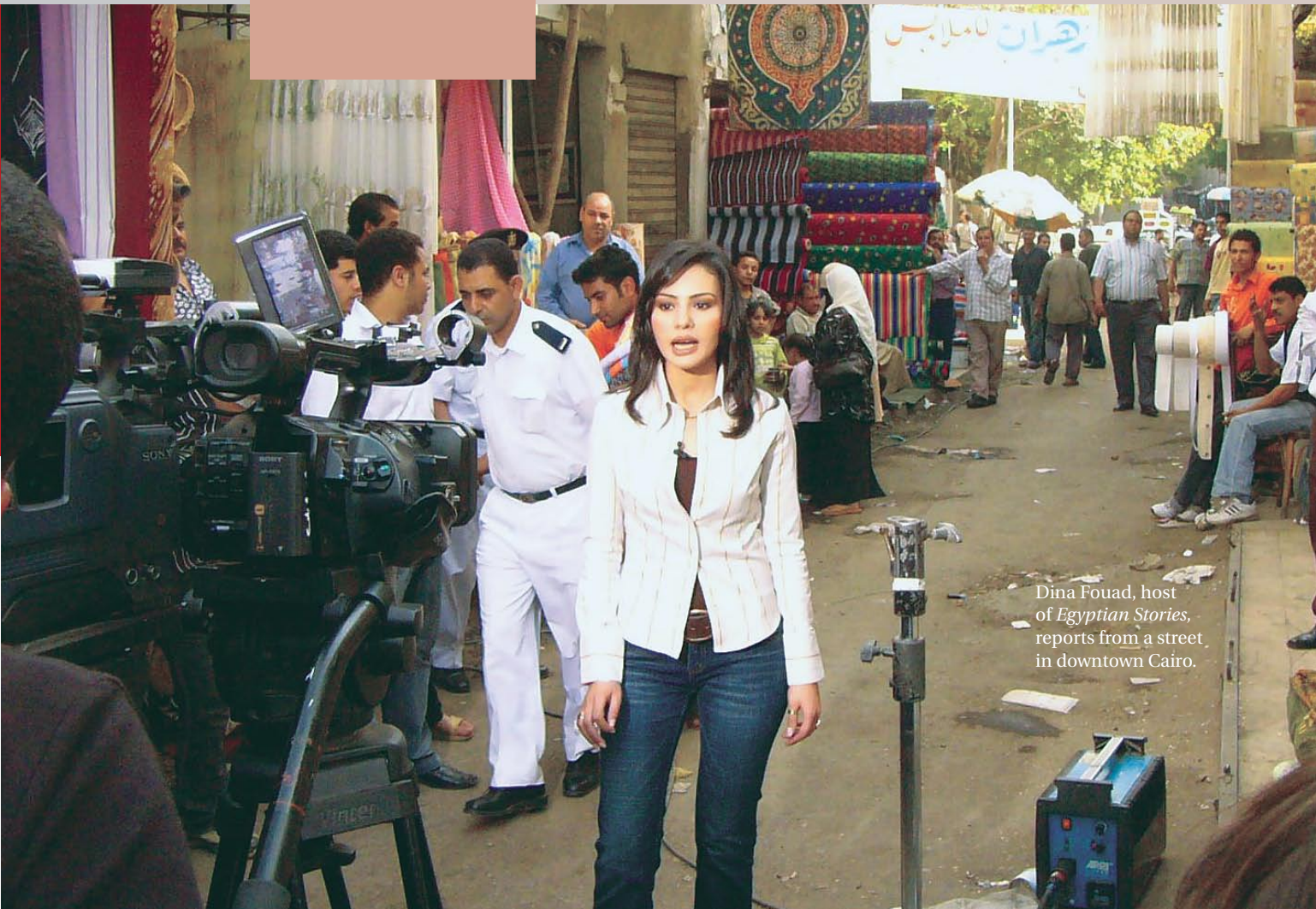
FY 2006 Budget:
\$79.5 million

Weekly Hours
Broadcast:
672.0

Language:
Arabic

The Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN) is a non-profit grantee of the BBG that operates Alhurra Television and Radio Sawa.

Alhurra Television broadcasts objective and accurate Arabic-language news and information to 22 countries throughout the Middle East on the Nilesat and Arabsat satellite systems. During 2006, Alhurra expanded its news coverage beyond its four hour-long scheduled newscasts with extensive coverage of live and breaking news coverage of important events in the U.S. and the Middle East. In addition to reporting on world events, Alhurra provides context and analysis to give viewers a broader



Dina Fouad, host of *Egyptian Stories*, reports from a street in downtown Cairo.

Joseph Eisawi (left) and guest are shown on the set of the cultural talk show *Very Close*.



understanding of the actions impacting the region. The network also broadcasts many discussion programs that examine political and social issues of interest to audiences in the Middle East. Through correspondents at the State Department, White House, Congress and Pentagon, as well as guests from American think tanks and U.S. officials, Alhurra provides a comprehensive view of U.S. foreign policy.

MBN also broadcasts a second channel specifically for Iraq. Alhurra-Iraq is broadcast via satellite, as well as via terrestrial transmitters in Baghdad (Channel 12), Mosul (Channel 12), Al Hilla (Channel 35), and Basra (Channel 3). Alhurra-Iraq's news and current affairs programs concentrate on issues facing the Iraqi viewers as they move into a new era, rebuilding their country.

In 2006, MBN launched a new channel to Europe on the Hotbird satellite system, creating a third television network. Alhurra-Europe brings all of the best programming from Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq to the Arabic-speaking audience throughout Europe.

Launched in 2002, Radio Sawa reaches a significant portion of the large and influ-

ential under-30 population of the Middle East. Broadcasting 24/7, mostly on FM, Radio Sawa provides its audience with reliable and objective up-to-date news, interesting information and an upbeat blend of mainstream Western and Arabic popular music. Radio Sawa broadcasts seven customized 24/7 programming streams (Egypt, The Gulf, Iraq, Morocco, Jordan/Palestinian Territories, Lebanon and Sudan/Yemen).

Host Ziad Noujeim conducts an Alhurra town hall meeting from Qatar.



2006 HIGHLIGHTS:

■ In July, Alhurra and Radio Sawa pre-empted regular programming to expand news coverage of the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict. During the crisis, Alhurra for the first time, went to a 24-hour news-only format to give viewers the most up-to-date information on the conflict.

■ Alhurra launched a new program *Americans* which gives viewers an historical and cultural look at the U.S. The show traveled the U.S., providing viewers with a better understanding of the American people and American values.

■ Alhurra launched two new programs examining human rights and freedom in the Middle East:

- *Equality*, which has received popular and critical acclaim, tackles topics dealing with the rights of women, such as the right of women to drive, their right to vote, arranged marriages, and role of women in Islam.
- *Eye on Democracy* explores human rights and freedom in the region.

■ Alhurra and Radio Sawa provided extensive coverage of elections in countries around the world, with particular attention to the elections in Kuwait, Palestinian Territories, Bahrain, UAE, Yemen, Iran, Mauritania, as well as the U.S. midterm elections.

■ Alhurra interviewed many world leaders in 2006 including Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi; Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh; Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Qatar Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassem Al Thani.

■ *Inside Washington*, Alhurra's program that goes behind the scenes of the political process in Washington interviewed guests that included Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Representative Howard Berman (D-CA), Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Representative Tom Lantos (D-CA), White House Spokesman Tony Snow, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

■ Alhurra increased its coverage of live news events of interest to the Middle Eastern audience, including foreign policy speeches by

U.S. President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Congressional hearings, UN Security Council meetings, as well as briefings and speeches made by leaders in the Middle East.

■ Alhurra and Radio Sawa extended their reach in Iraq when Alhurra began broadcasting terrestrially in Mosul and Al-Hilla, and Radio Sawa began broadcasting on FM in Kirkuk and Nasariya.

■ Radio Sawa began broadcasting to Lebanon on FM transmitters throughout the country.

Iraqis in Basra, Iraq, watch President Bush on Alhurra in a televised address to the United States. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani).




International Broadcasting Bureau

Employees:
763

FY 2006 Budget:
\$245.9 million
(includes IBB
and BBG)

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) provides administrative, technical, policy, and program support to the Voice of America and Radio/TV Martí. It also provides transmission services for all the BBG broadcast services. IBB stays on the cutting edge of technology, managing a complex network of domestic and overseas transmitting stations as well as satellite and Internet delivery systems. This network distributes U.S. government-funded programs to transmitting stations and to AM, FM, shortwave, and cable communications worldwide. The IBB Office of Policy produces the U.S. government editorials heard daily on VOA broadcasts.

Since September 11, 2001, the IBB has transformed its transmission capabilities, continuing its move from a shortwave environment to one that increasingly uses AM, FM, satellite, and Internet capabilities to reach audiences. By bolstering transmission capabilities to the Muslim



A satellite dish at one of IBB's transmitting stations receives BBG programming to be retransmitted to audiences throughout the world.

Maintenance riggers climb towers, which may be over 300 feet tall, to repair antennas at one of IBB's transmitting stations.



world, we have improved opportunities to deliver news and information clearly, reliably, and effectively. New transmission capabilities have been added, and other assets have been reallocated from regions of lesser geopolitical importance and from technologies of declining effectiveness.

Radio in Afghanistan, one for Radio Farda programs to Iran, and one for Radio Aap ki Duniya programs to Pakistan.

2006 Highlights:

■ Television transmission was enhanced to many parts of the world. The delivery of Persian-language television broadcasts to Iran now uses two satellites. Alhurra is now available on a new satellite channel widely viewable throughout Europe, and the launch of two additional Alhurra TV terrestrial transmitters in Iraq brings to four the total number of IBB-funded transmitters there.

■ Radio transmission enhancements include the construction of a new medium wave signal antenna in Tajikistan that is increasing the strength of VOA's Radio Aap ki Duniya to Pakistan. There are also five new FM transmitter sites on the air in Iraq, three new FM transmitters in Afghanistan, and one new FM transmitter in the Palestinian territories.

■ Construction is underway on three high-power medium wave radio transmitters that should come on the air in 2007: one for Deewa

■ VOA launched voamobile.com, an innovative service that currently provides news content on a mobile phone or Internet-enabled handheld device in ten languages.

■ VOA English-to-Africa placements increased in FY2006. New placements of the revamped program stream were possible with top-rated Capital FM in Kampala, Uganda.

■ Three new FM transmitters in Eastern Afghanistan deliver VOA Pashto programming to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. A powerful medium wave transmitter to serve this area is under construction.

■ Working with VOA, IBB's Office of Marketing and Program Placement developed and deployed eight billboards in Kabul, Afghanistan, to announce the launch of TV Ashna on Radio-Television Afghanistan in September.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ambassador James Jeffrey, in an interview with Radio Farda broadcaster Mossadegh Katouzian, calls for Iran to cooperate with the international community.

Programming to Iran

“**A**irwave blitz on Iran.” That was the headline of a front-page story in the *Chicago Tribune* on May 31, 2006.

Reporter Cam Simpson’s in-depth story focused on the dramatic expansion of VOA Persian-language satellite television to Iran and its programming aimed at its youthful population.

When the year began, the service provided its already growing audience (an estimated weekly audience reach of more than one in five viewers) one hour of live programming each day. Less than ten months later, the daily offering had increased four-fold with planning well underway for additional blocks of programming in 2007. What had been a mixed schedule of programming was refined to four one-hour blocks, airing in prime time from 7-11 p.m. in Iran, with repeats three

times daily. Each show developed its own distinctive flavor:

■ *News Talk* debuted on October 8, 2006.

An update of the day’s news is followed by a roundtable discussion by journalists of the top stories of the day. Viewers have commented on the freshness of hearing both sides of the issue discussed in an open and civil manner.

■ *News Talk* is followed by VOA’s flagship show, *News and Views*. In-depth reporting on events in Iran, the region, and around the world is highlighted by VOA correspondents’ live coverage. Daily segments include “Your Voice,” reflecting comments and opinions received from viewers.

■ *Roundtable With You* celebrated its tenth anniversary on the air in 2006. It became a daily addition to the lineup in June, offering a wide range of opinion on issues and a call-in feature for viewers from Iran to interact with the show host and guests.

■ *Late Edition* provides a faster pace and stylized look to target Iran's youth. (More than half of Iran's population is under age 25.) It includes a wrap of the day's news, an in-depth look at a top story of the day, and segments covering health, technology, sports, entertainment and culture.

This timely expansion of programming allowed for extensive coverage of stories critical to Iranians and reports of events inside Iran, including protests against human rights abuses. VOA Persian put reporters on the ground in Beirut, Jerusalem, and the northern Israeli border at the height of the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict. At the U.N. in New York, a VOA correspondent put a question regarding human rights abuses in Iran directly to Iranian President Ahmadinejad. Show guests ranged from former President Jimmy Carter to former Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes. VOA Persian television was the first to report on the case of Akbar Mohammadi, a student leader jailed for speaking against the regime and who later died under mysterious circumstances.

Those with access to the Internet can receive VOA Persian TV through its live broadcast streams, and shows are archived for up to a week. In 2006, a new Web page was added to offer VOA editorials and *Views From Washington*, explaining U.S. policies.

Radio Farda, a joint project of VOA and RFE/RL, continued to broadcast to Iran 24/7, increasing its news and information programs to 8.5 hours daily with another increase scheduled in 2007. Its daily in-depth look at the news, *Evening Edition*, expanded to 25 minutes and special news broadcasts were added during the height of the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict. The standoff between the West and Iran over its nuclear program was the subject of extensive

coverage on Radio Farda, including interviews with Under Secretary of State Robert Joseph and the U.S. representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ambassador Gregory Schulte. News from inside Iran included a series of reports on an extraordinary strike by the bus drivers of Tehran. In November, Radio Farda's retooled Web site was launched, offering visitors more in-depth news and information. The site was an instant hit, with the number of monthly page views rising by more than 76 percent to nearly 5.7 million by the end of January 2007.

Perhaps the best testament to the BBG's dynamic approach to its broadcasting to Iran, is summed up by the hundreds of e-mails received from viewers and listeners from inside Iran, such as Dr. Daryoush Shaygan, a well-known professor and author in Tehran: "The VOA four one-hour programs are the most popular TV programs in Iran, particularly among the university students and professors. As an Iranian, I am proud of you...your voice and image has great influence in Iran. Be aware of your tremendous responsibility."

Luna Shad hosts *Late Edition*, the VOA Persian TV show targeted to Iranian youth.





In 2006, the Ethiopian Government lodged charges, later dropped, of genocide and treason against (from left to right) VOA Horn of Africa Service journalists Solomon Kifle, Tizita Belachew, and Addisu Abebe, and Africa Division Program Manager Negussie Mengesha. Also charged was journalist Adanech Fessehaye (not pictured).

Journalists Under Fire

28

"The most brutal year for journalists across the world." That's how the International Press Institute summed up its report for 2006.

International journalism has always been a high-risk occupation. Stories of loss of life among combat correspondents and photographers are legion. Throughout the wars of the 20th century, most of the journalists killed or wounded were casualties of enemy fire aimed at opposing military forces. Increasingly, in recent years, journalists have become the target of harassment, imprisonment and torture and, in some cases, cold-blooded murder. Journalists working for U.S. international broadcasting were no exception.

It often takes a sensational story to make an impact on the public at large. For this issue, it was the brutal slaying in October of Russian Journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a frequent contributor to RFE/RL and whose final interview was with RFE/RL two days before her murder. Politkovskaya had drawn the ire of the Russian government for her reports on the rebellion in Chechnya.

Although Politkovskaya's death received the most news coverage, it was symbolic of the growing threat. Earlier, in September, a correspondent in Turkmenistan, Ogulsapar Muradova, died in a Turkmen prison under mysterious circumstances. Radio Free Iraq's correspondent in Hilla received word he was on a list to be assassinated. After he moved his family, his empty house was hit by a hand

grenade. Harassment and assassination threats in Iraq ultimately led to the kidnaping, torture and murder of Radio Free Iraq correspondents Khamail Muhsin Khalaf and Nazar Abjul Wahid Al-Radhi in 2007.

Target countries in Eurasia served by the BBG have become increasingly difficult environments in which to work. A stringer for RFE/RL's Belarusian Service was harassed and beaten by a special forces brigade commander and had to be rescued by other journalists present, and a former RFE/RL correspondent in Uzbekistan was jailed for six months after his conviction for "defaming a security services agent."

Voice of America correspondents have been the target of attempts at intimidation through threats and legal prosecutions. The government of Ethiopia put five U.S.-based correspondents on trial in absentia in a widespread crackdown on journalists and

political opponents. Charges against the five were dropped only after a major international outcry. VOA correspondents in Zimbabwe have also been the target of threats and harassment by government officials.

The BBG joined other organizations in condemning the increasing worldwide threat to working journalists. Freedom House, Reporters Without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the International Press Institute and others have helped to raise the awareness of the public in the U.S. and around the world about the seriousness of the situation, and have at times successfully created an outcry that has forced the release of jailed journalists or forced prosecutors to drop trumped-up charges.

For the BBG, these and other incidents have brought to the fore the courage and dedication it takes to work for our family of broadcasters. As former BBG Chairman Kenneth Y. Tomlinson said after two RFE/RL journalists were arrested in Turkmenistan: "Governments may think they can prevent their own people from getting the news by targeting a few journalists, but it will never stop us from carrying out our mission."



Russian Journalist Anna Politkovskaya's final interview was with RFE/RL two days before her murder.



The late Turkmen correspondent Ogulsapar Muradova, who died under mysterious circumstances, is pictured (left) at a wedding in 2002.

Broadcasting Board of Governors (2006–2007)

JAMES K. GLASSMAN, chairman, June 2007 to present, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He is editor-in-chief of *The American*, AEI's bimonthly magazine of business and economics. He is the former president of The Atlantic Monthly Co., publisher of *The New Republic*, executive vice president of *U.S. News & World Report*, and editor-in-chief and co-owner of *Roll Call*, the congressional newspaper. In 2003, he served on the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World, a commission mandated by Congress. Between July 1993 and July 2004, he was an investing columnist for *The Washington Post*, and has also written an op-ed column for that newspaper on political and economic issues. His articles have been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, and other publications. His most recent book is *The Secret Code of the Superior Investor* (Crown). He was a member of the President's Council on the 21st Century Workforce and serves on the board of trustees of the U.S. Chamber Foundation and the Intel Corp. Public Policy Advisory Board. Mr. Glassman is the recipient of, among other honors, the Warren Brookes Award of the American Legislative Exchange Council for distinguished journalism. He is a graduate of Harvard University, where he was managing editor of the university daily, *The Crimson*.

JOAQUIN F. BLAYA is chairman of Blaya Media, Inc. Since immigrating to the United States from Chile, Blaya has held a number of senior management positions with

media companies. He has served as chairman of Radio Unica, a Spanish-language radio network, and as CEO of the Telemundo Group, Inc., the nation's second-largest Spanish language television network. Blaya also served as president of Univision Holdings, Inc., the nation's largest Spanish-language media company. Before coming to the United States, he worked in several marketing and media firms. He is chairman of the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Blaya is also a member of the Board of Trustees at the University of Miami.

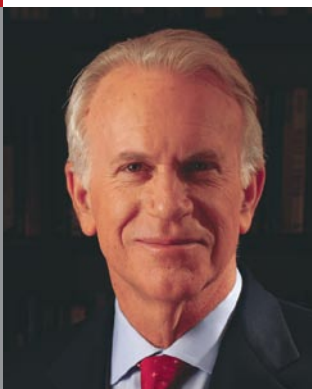
BLANQUITA WALSH CULLUM is chairman of the Talk Radio First Amendment Committee. She is former president of the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts. Every year since 1995, she has been named by *TALKERS* magazine, the trade publication for the industry, as one of the Top 100 broadcasters in talk radio. Her nationally syndicated program, *Newsbeat*, was heard coast-to-coast on the Radio America Network. She is the president and founder of the Young American Broadcasters Program. Cullum, the first Hispanic woman and the first radio talk show host to serve on the BBG, is also a member of the National Moment of Remembrance Commission. Cullum frequently appears on national television. She began her broadcasting career over 25 years ago in San Antonio, Texas. She also has worked for the Coors Corporation and the National Bureau of the Census.

Chairman
James K. Glassman
(2007)

Governor
Joaquin F. Blaya

Governor
Blanquita Walsh Cullum

Governor
D. Jeffrey Hirschberg



D. JEFFREY HIRSCHBERG is a partner at Kalorama Partners, LLC, a consulting firm concerned with transparency, corporate governance, and risk assessment. He was director of the corporate responsibility practice at Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White, LLP. Hirschberg retired from Ernst & Young in 1999 as vice chairman/ governmental affairs. Previously, he worked as a private attorney in both Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From 1972-1980, Hirschberg worked for the U.S. Justice Department as a special attorney and deputy chief of the criminal division's special litigation section. He also prosecuted civil and criminal matters as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Milwaukee. He is a director of the U.S.-Russian Business Council and a member of the Board of Advisors for the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Reporter.

EDWARD E. KAUFMAN is president of Public Strategies, a political and management consulting firm based in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1995, he was appointed a charter member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. Since 1991, he has been a Senior Lecturing Fellow at Duke University's School of Law, Fuqua School of Business, and Sanford Institute of Public Policy. He is a Trustee of Christiana Care Corporation and a member of the Board of Directors of Children and Families First. Kaufman was formerly Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE). Previously, he worked in various technical, financial, and marketing positions with the DuPont Company.

MARK MCKINNON is vice chairman of Public Strategies, Inc., president of Maverick Media, and co-founder of HOTSOU.com. As chief media adviser to President George W. Bush, McKinnon directed the advertising effort for both presidential campaigns. He currently advises Senator John McCain. McKinnon is an award-winning media producer and communications strategist who has served as principal media adviser for hundreds of corporate and political campaigns in the United States, Latin America and Africa. He currently teaches at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

STEVEN J. SIMMONS is chairman, CEO of Patriot Media and Communications, LLC, a cable television company. It offers over 80,000 customers digital programming, high speed Internet access, digital phone and other advanced communications services. Simmons chairs the Cable TV Entrepreneurs Club of 22 present and former cable CEO's, previously served on the National Cable TV Association Board, and was voted a Cable TV Pioneer. From 1982-1994, he was chairman, CEO of Simmons Communications, Inc. (SCI), which served cable subscribers in 20 states with over 50 offices nationwide. Prior to SCI, Simmons served almost four years on the White House domestic policy staff, after serving on the faculty and authoring communications law articles at the University of California.

Governor
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Governor
Mark McKinnon
(2007)



Governor
Steven J. Simmons



Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice
Ex Officio



SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE serves as the ex-officio member of the bipartisan Board. Prior to becoming Secretary of State, Dr. Rice served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, commonly referred to as the National Security Advisor. She also was in government service from 1989 through March 1991, the period of German reunification and the final days of the Soviet Union, when she served in the Bush Administration as Director, and then Senior Director, of Soviet and East European Affairs in the National Security Council, and a Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

NORMAN J. PATTIZ is founder and chairman of Westwood One, America's largest radio network and supplier of local TV content. Westwood One owns, manages or distributes the NBC Radio Network, CBS Radio Network, the Mutual Broadcasting System, CNN Radio, Metro Networks, Metro Traffic and Shadow Traffic. He serves as a member of the University of California's Board of Regents. Pattiz is a past president and executive board member of the Broadcast Education Association and a trustee of the Museum of Television & Radio, the Hollywood Radio & Television Society and the NARAS Foundation. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Pacific Council of International Relations.

KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON is a former director of the Voice of America and has more than 35 years of journalistic experience. He began his career as a reporter for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in 1965. In 1968 he joined the Washington bureau of *Reader's Digest*, then served as a correspondent in Vietnam, and eventually in Paris, where he covered events in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Tomlinson Director of VOA, where he served until 1984. After his tenure at VOA, Tomlinson returned to *Reader's Digest* to serve as managing editor. He was subsequently named executive editor of the *Digest* in 1985 and editor-in-chief in 1989. He retired from *Reader's Digest* in 1996. He has served as the chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (1985), and as a member of the U.S. Board for International Broadcasting (1986-1994).

Governor
Norman J. Pattiz
(2000-2006)

Governor
Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
(2002-2007)



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