

British DX Club
DX Timeline
Afghanistan



**featuring DX news reports
on Afghanistan since 1974**

DX Timeline - Afghanistan

Since the very first edition of "Communication" in 1974, the British DX Club's "DX News" section has brought members the very latest roundup of news each month about what is happening in the DX world. Quite understandably, over this long period we have included quite a lot of information about broadcasting in, from, and to Afghanistan. Here we look back at what has been reported since the mid-1970's, through the periods of Soviet occupation, civil war, the rule of the Taliban, right up until the present time. *Entries in italics are from Wikipedia and highlight key political events.*

All times are UTC.

November 1974: Radio Afghanistan was featured as early as edition number 3 of Communication, which was then the monthly journal of the Twickenham DX Club (which later became the British DX Club). The article, written by David Balhatchet, read as follows:

Spotlight on a Radio Station: Radio Afghanistan

by D P Balhatchet

Radio Afghanistan is the official state broadcasting body in Afghanistan. It controls both the home and foreign services. Nearly all the home service programmes are broadcast in the country's two official languages, that is, Pashto and Dari. The foreign service is broadcast in five languages - English, German, Russian, Urdu and Pashto/Dari. English is heard here in Twickenham with moderate to poor reception at 1130 GMT on 15195 kHz.

Radio Afghanistan has its transmitting stations at Kabul/Yakatut and Pol-e-Charki. It's most powerful transmitter is 100 kW and the weakest, 10 kW. Antennas are either omni-directional or beamed to Europe.

The interval signal of Radio Afghanistan is a melody played on a flute and the opening announcement is "Da Radio Afghanistan Kabul dai".

The address is Radio Afghanistan, PO Box 544, Kabul. If a correct reception report is sent plus an IRC, a most attractive QSL is sent. If, however, an IRC is not sent, the report will probably receive only a mention on the air. This station and its QSL are really not worth missing. The QSL is most attractive and Afghanistan is, of course, another broadcasting zone. Try tuning in, and learn something.

November 1975: Radio Afghanistan can be heard in English on 15195 kHz at 0815-0915 GMT as from 26 October, 1000-1030 in German and 1200-1300 in Pashto/Dari. (AE Martin)

February 1976: Radio Afghanistan has replaced 4750 kHz with 3390 kHz during the transmission hours 1330-1430 and 1600-1830.

August 1976: Radio Afghanistan can still be heard in English at 1400-1430 on 4775 kHz.

October 1976: Radio Afghanistan is in English at 1400 on 4775 kHz and at 1130 on 15195 kHz. (SDXC)

April 1977: Radio Afghanistan is in English on 15230 kHz (ex-15195) at 1130. (Edwin Southwell)

September 1977: Radio Afghanistan is heard on 15365 kHz in English at 1130, a change from 15230 kHz. Reception is poor. (Edwin Southwell)

1978: *In April, military units loyal to the Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan attack the Afghan Presidential Palace, killing President Mohammed Daoud Khan and all of his family. Shortly after, the PDPA installs its leader, Nur Muhammad Taraki, as President of Afghanistan. By December, a treaty is signed which permits deployment of the Soviet military at the Afghan government's request.*

March 1979: Radio Afghanistan is now using 11985 kHz (ex-11805) in English from 1900-1930, with 15295 kHz in parallel. (SDXC)

April 1979: Radio Afghanistan is in English to Europe at 1900 on 11890 and 15140 kHz (ex-11985 & 15295).

August 1979: Radio Afghanistan transmits in English to Europe from 1900-1930 on 15075 kHz and in English to South Asia from 1530-1600 on 4775 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

14 September 1979: *Afghan president Taraki is murdered by supporters of Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin.*

September 1979: Radio Afghanistan First Programme can be heard on two new frequencies of 11900 and 15280 kHz from 0130 approx to 1930. Parallel frequencies of 6230v and 4775 kHz are used at various times. The External Service continues on 15075 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

November 1979: Radio Afghanistan on 4775 kHz carries Urdu at 1400-1530 and English at 1530-1600. (WRTH)

December 1979: *Soviet war in Afghanistan: Fearing the collapse of the Amin regime, the Soviet army invades Afghanistan on 24 December 1979. By 27 December, Soviet troops occupy major governmental, military and media buildings in Kabul, including the Tajbeg Presidential Palace, and execute Prime Minister Amin.*

December 1979: Radio Afghanistan domestic service relays on 11900 and 15280 kHz have been changed to the following: 15305 kHz at 0400-1600, 11710 kHz at 0500-1500, 7235 kHz at 0130-0500 and 1500-1930, 6190 kHz at 0130-0400 and 1600-1930 (all times are approximate). These channels are in addition to Radio Afghanistan's regular domestic frequencies (7200, 6230, 4775 kHz). (BBC Monitoring)

Olle Alm reports in DSWCI's "SWN" that the former 11900 and 15280 kHz relays were in fact from the USSR. He said 11900 was from Zhigulevsk and 15280 from Tula. (*BBCM is strangely silent on this matter-editor*)

January 1980: Radio Afghanistan domestic service stayed on the air until 0031 on 28 December 1979 instead of closing down at 1930 on 27 December (the day of the Russian invasion). The domestic service continues to be relayed by transmitters believed to be located in the USSR; these relays are currently observed as follows: 15305 kHz at 0445-1600, 11710 kHz at 0525-1700, 7235 kHz at 0125-0500 and 1700-1930, 6190 kHz at 0125-0430 and 1600-1930. The domestic service is broadcast by transmitters in Afghanistan itself as follows: 7200 kHz at 0130-1930 (observed only intermittently), 6230 kHz at 0330-1930 (confirmed), 4775 kHz at 0130-0330 (confirmed). The two sets of frequencies carry identical programming. (BBC Monitoring)

February 1980: The use of transmitters in the USSR to relay the domestic service of Radio Afghanistan has been officially confirmed. The 'Tentative HF Broadcasting Schedule' of the IFRB for the period 2 March to 4 May 1980 contains three frequency registrations which match current monitoring observations of channels carrying Radio Afghanistan's domestic service. These frequencies - 15305, 11710 and 7235 kHz - are registered emanating from 100 kW transmitters located at Voronezh, Kazan and Zhigulevsk respectively. The 15305 and 7235 channels are shown as being beamed to Afghanistan and Iran, while 11710 is targeted towards Pakistan and India. No registration is shown for a fourth channel of 6190 which is also thought to emanate from a transmitter in the USSR. Relays of Radio Afghanistan's domestic service from transmitters in the USSR began in the first week of August 1979 with the use of 15280 and 11900. They were replaced by the current frequencies in the fourth week of October 1979.

External service transmissions beamed to the Middle East and Europe continue to be broadcast on 15075 kHz by Radio Afghanistan. They include broadcasts in Arabic, Pashto/Dari, German and English between 1700 and 1930. (BBC Monitoring)

March 1980: Radio Afghanistan has been observed since the end of January broadcasting its domestic service First Programme in Pashto and Dari from a transmitter operating on 4460 or 3965 kHz. The exact pattern of frequency usage has not yet been established and it is possible that the transmitter is undergoing tests. On 17 February the domestic service was observed from fade in at 1530 until 1930 on both frequencies. These channels operated during this period in parallel with 6230 and the USSR-based transmitters on 7235 and 6190 kHz.

English from Radio Afghanistan can be heard at 1530-1600 on 4775 kHz and at 1900-1930 on 15075v kHz. The 15075 channel is used at 1700-1930 for foreign service programmes whilst 11805 is used for the Russian service at 1630-1700. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Moscow's external service has increased its output in Pashto and Dari, languages spoken in Afghanistan. 30 minute transmissions in Pashto are now broadcast five times daily instead of three - from 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600 and 1700. This represents an increase in weekly output from 10 hours 30 minutes to 17 hours 30 minutes. Similar broadcasts in Dari are now on the air four times daily instead of three - from 1330, 1430, 1530 and 1630. Weekly output is now 14 hours instead of 10 hours 30 minutes. All transmissions are broadcast on 15410, 15360, 11845 and 9580 kHz. In addition 11710 kHz is used from 1300-1700 and 7275 kHz (from a 50 kW transmitter in Dushanbe) for relays of Radio Moscow in Pashto and Dari from 1430-1530 and 1600-1730. At other times the latter channel carries Radio Dushanbe's external service in Persian and Dari. Radio Moscow's transmissions in Pashto and Dari are also heard from 1300-1730 on the feeder channel of 18652.75 kHz LSB. Since 15 February, Radio Moscow has also increased its Urdu output from 17 hours 30 minutes to 24 hours 30 minutes. Extra broadcasts are now heard at 0300-0330 on 15460, 11720 and 9755 kHz and at 0800-0830 on 21655, 21575, 17925, 17775, 17730 and 15460 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

April 1980: Radio Afghanistan via USSR transmitters is now on 17720 and 15255 kHz at 0515-1630 and 0530-1530 respectively. These frequencies replace 15305 and 11710. 7235 and 6190 kHz continue to be used at 0125-0400 and 1600-1930, and 0125-0430 and 1630-1930 respectively. (BBC Monitoring)

May 1980: Radio Afghanistan has been heard since 5 April on the new frequency of 4740 kHz with the domestic service; sign-on is at 0125, sign-off at 1930. Since 23 April the relay via transmitters in the USSR has been observed from 0125 sign-on on 17720 and 15255 kHz. The former frequency is in use until sign-off while the latter is not heard after 1530. These frequencies are heard in parallel with 7235, 6230, 6190, 4460 and 3965 kHz (no times were given in the announcement). (BBC Monitoring)

The Kuwaiti News Agency reported on 27 April that, according to press reports published in Islamabad, the radio station of the Afghan rebels fighting the present government in Kabul resumed transmissions on 26 April. The press reports stated that the station, run by the 'Hizbi i-Islami', broadcasts two 90 minute programmes daily in Persian and Pashto - one in the morning and one in the evening. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Moscow has again increased its broadcasting to Afghanistan. The additional programmes are heard on 15375, 15360, 11845 and 11760 kHz at 1730-1800 in Dari, at 1800-1830 in Pashto and at 1830 in Dari. Broadcasts by Radio Moscow for Afghanistan are now transmitted from 1300 to 1900 with alternative half hours in Pashto and Dari. The station thus broadcasts 21 hours a week in each language. (BBC Monitoring)

June 1980: Radio Afghanistan's domestic service is currently being heard throughout the broadcasting day at 0125-1930 on the feeder channel of 19637.25 kHz USB. It is believed that it serves at least one of the two USSR-based transmitters which relay Radio Afghanistan's domestic service on 17720 and 15255 kHz. 4460 has moved to 4450 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1980: Radio Mojahedin of Afghanistan (Dari: Radiyo-e Mojahedin-e Afghanistan) has been heard broadcasting over the past few weeks on 15305 and 9710 kHz. The daily broadcast is on the air at 1600-1655 and consists of two parts - the first in Dari, the second in Pashto. This station is hostile to Soviet involvement in the country and suffers deliberate interference. (BBC Monitoring); according to a Sweden Calling DXers reporter, Radiyo-e Mojahedin-e Afghanistan is using facilities of Radio Cairo.

Press reports continue to highlight the popularity of BBC programmes in Afghanistan despite the fact that the BBC does not broadcast in Pashto, the main language of the country, but only in Farsi - a dialect of which (Dari) is understood by much of the population. The Daily Telegraph reports that few Afghans listen to VOA or DW whilst The Times says that Radio Peking is very popular. (DX News)

September 1980: Radio Afghanistan External Service broadcasts are now on 17742 kHz (ex-17745) for Pashto/Dari at 1730-1830, German at 1830-1900, English at 1900-1930. Radio Afghanistan's external service in Arabic has been traced on 11802 kHz approx 1700-1730 following the 1630-1700 Russian service on the same channel (BBC Monitoring)

October 1980: Since 7 September, Radio Afghanistan's external service to South Asia has been on 6230 kHz instead of 4775. It has Urdu 1330-1530 and English 1530-1600. Observations also show the station now uses 15076 kHz at 1730-1930 to Europe (ex-15135) in Pashto/Dari, German and English. (BBC Monitoring)

May 1981: Relays of Radio Afghanistan's domestic service from transmitters thought to be located in the USSR have been heard since 1 April adhering to the following schedule: 21460 kHz at 0430-1530, 17720 kHz at 0430-1500, 11740 kHz at 1530-1930, 11730 kHz at 0125-0430, 9575 kHz at 1500-1930, 9500 kHz at 0125-0430. This service is also available from a USB transmitter, presumably a feeder from Afghanistan to the USSR, on 19637.25 kHz at 0400-1500 and on 10457.25 kHz at 0125-0400 and 1500-1930. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1981: The Afghan resistance will have access to its first radio transmitter "within the next few weeks", a Paris based support committee for the resistance movement in Soviet-occupied said June 30. The radio will be the first link in a network of radio transmitters transmitting under the code name "Radio Free Afghanistan". Broadcasts would be in two native languages of Pashto and Farsi as well as in Russian. Cost of the project would be 1m francs. (The Times, 1 July 1981, via Chris Greenway)

September 1981: Radio Afghanistan is heard in English at 1900-1930 on 9665 kHz to Europe. (David Ansell); the 9665 outlet is via a USSR relay and is parallel to 15077 direct from Kabul. (Chris Greenway)

October 1981: Radio Afghanistan external service transmitter in Arabic is currently heard 1700-1730 on 17849 kHz, with transmissions in Pashto/Dari, German and English at 1730-1830, 1830-1900 and 1900-1930 respectively are heard on 15077, 9665 and 7280 kHz - the last two originate from within the USSR. (BBC Monitoring)

November 1981: French supporters of the Afghan guerrilla movement have delivered a VHF transmitter to the strategic Panjsher Valley to be used for anti-Soviet broadcasts aimed at Kabul and the surrounding area. Transmissions hope to start within days. (Guardian, 16 October 1981)

December 1981: The schedule of Radio Afghanistan's external service is as follows: 1330-1530 Urdu to South Asia on 9550(irreg) and 6230 kHz, 1530-1600 English to South Asia on 9550(irreg) and 6230 kHz, 1630-1700 Russian to Europe (unconfirmed), 1700-1730 Arabic to Middle East on 17850 kHz, 1730-1830 Pashto/Dari to Europe on 15077, 9665 and 7290 kHz, 1830-1900 German to Europe on 15077, 9665 and 7290 kHz, 1900-1930 English to Europe on 15077, 9665 and 7290 kHz. 7290, 9550 and 9665 kHz are from relays in the USSR. (BBC Monitoring)

April 1982: The external service of Radio Afghanistan between 1730-1930 is now heard on 15077, 11755 and 9665 kHz, the last two frequencies from the USSR. English is at 1900-1930. The 1530-1600 English transmission is heard on 6230 kHz and irregular 9550 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Afghanistan in Arabic at 1700-1730 is now on new 15530 kHz. (World DX News/AWR)

June 1982: Voice of the United Muslim Fighters of Afghanistan broadcasts material hostile to the Afghan government and Soviet involvement in Afghanistan in Pashto and Dari - on air according to announcements at 0100-0155 on 15460 and 9710 kHz and at 1430-1525? on 15305 and 9710 kHz. The address for listeners letters is given as PO Box 507, 1010 Vienna, Austria. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1982: Radio Afghanistan in English reported at 1530-1600 on 11960 and 15255 kHz (Sweden Calling DXers); However, BBC Monitoring reports English to South Asia on 6230 kHz only at this time.

The full Radio Afghanistan schedule is: 1330-1530 in Urdu to South Asia on 15255, 11960 and 6230 kHz, 1530-1600 in English to South Asia on 6230 kHz, 1630-1700 in Russian to Europe on 11805 kHz, 1700-1730 in Arabic to Middle East on 11805 kHz, 1730-1830 in Pashto/Dari to Europe on 15077, 11960 and 9665 kHz, 1830-1900 in German and 1900-1930 in English to Europe both on 15077, 11960 and 9665 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

October 1982: A new external service called Voice of the Homeland is broadcast in Pashto and Dari at 1430-1630 on 15225, 11960 and 6230 kHz. English is now carried at 1000-1030 on 21460, 15255 and 6230 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

November 1982: Radio Afghanistan external service has English scheduled at 1000-1030 to South Asia on 21460, 15255 and 6230 kHz and also at 1900-1930 to Europe on 15077, 11960 and 9665 kHz. 9665, 11960, 15255 and 21460 kHz are from transmitters in the USSR. (BBC Monitoring)

December 1982: Since 14 November, Radio Afghanistan external service has been heard (to Europe) on 7290 kHz, replacing 11960, parallel to 15077 and 9665 kHz. English is at 1900-1930. (BBC Monitoring)

January 1983: Kabul was heard on 30 November and 13 December on a lower sideband feeder of 19637.25 kHz. This frequency was last observed on 11 May 1982. (BBC Monitoring)

February 1983: The Sunday Times reported on 23 January that the Afghan resistance is now operating eleven "Radio Free Kabul" stations on VHF from hideouts around the country. Broadcasts are aimed at Russian soldiers as well as Afghans. (Sunday Times via Philip Wallace)

April 1983: Radio Afghanistan's external services beamed to Europe from 1730-1930 are now heard on 11755 kHz in parallel with 15077 and 9665 kHz. English is at 1900. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Afghanistan's Arabic service has been heard at 1700-1730 on new 15530 kHz. (Chris Greenway)

August 1983: Radio Afghanistan between 1730-1930 is now heard on 11960 kHz, replacing 11755, in parallel with 15077 and 9655 kHz. English is 1900-1930. (BBC Monitoring, Sweden Calling DXers)

October 1983: Radio Afghanistan schedule: 0930-1030 in English on 15255 and 21460 kHz, 1930-2000 in French on 15077 and 7200 kHz. (RNW Media Network)

November 1983: Rather strange happenings on 24 October: Radio Afghanistan's programme feeds became very intermittent from 1536, going open carrier at 1555. From 1601 to 1615 the transmitters on 4740 and 4450 kHz returned with a relay not from Kabul but from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran! (BBC Monitoring)

February 1984: During the past month, three apparently new stations have been intercepted by BBC Monitoring. Radio Free Kabul, Voice of the Mujahedeen was heard on 5 January from 1530 on 3659 kHz; according to French press reports it operates in the 3200 to 3800 kHz range.

Voice of Afghanistan (Dari: In Seda-ye Afghanistan Ast) is heard from 1530-1615 approx on either 6270 or 6290 kHz. The station broadcasts in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek.

Finally, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was heard from 1700-1730 on 720 kHz with programmes in Pashto and Dari. (BBC Monitoring)

May 1984: The current monitored schedule of external broadcasts from Radio Afghanistan includes English at 0900-1030 on 21460, 17720, 6230 and 4450 kHz; Arabic at 1700-1725 on 15530 and 11700 kHz; German at 1830-1900 and English at 1900-1930 on 15077, 11960 and 9665 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1984: The Afghan news agency has reported that the foundation stone of a building to house a new 1000 kW mediumwave transmitter has been laid. (BBC Monitoring)

August 1984: Radio Australia's "Talkback" programme reported on 30 June that the USSR-based relay of Radio Afghanistan's home service on 21640 kHz had been replaced by 17900 kHz. Subsequent monitoring observations have confirmed this. (BBC Monitoring)

Voice of the United Muslim Fighters of Afghanistan is currently observed from 1500-1600 on 11630 and 15050 kHz. This does not agree with station announcement's which give the schedule as 0100-0155 on 11460 and 9810 kHz and 1430-1525 on 15305 and 9710 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

December 1984: Radio Afghanistan broadcasts to Europe at 1730-1930 are now heard on 7320 and 5905 kHz. German is at 1830-1900 and English at 1900-1930. (BBC Monitoring)

Voice of Unity (Pashto: De Wahdat Ghazh; Dari: Seda-e Wahdat), formerly known as Voice of the United Muslim Fighters of Afghanistan and hostile to Soviet involvement in that country, has been heard recently at 0130-0230 on 11640/11560/9680/9275 or 7420 and 1530-1630 on 15050/11630 or 9855. An address is announced for listeners' letters at PO Box 284, 1061 Vienna, Austria. (BBC Monitoring, Roger Tidy/Media Monitor)

January 1985: Radio Afghanistan's Second Programme from Kabul formerly on 6230 kHz is now registered and observed on 6085 kHz. Also carries some external service programmes. (BBC Monitoring)

April 1985: Radio Afghanistan has replaced 5905 with 9665 kHz for external service programmes from 1730-1930. It is in parallel with 7320. English is broadcast 1900-1930. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Iran is heard on 15650 and 9027 kHz for its 1830 broadcast. The frequency of 9027 is also used by the Voice of the Liberation of Iran at 1630-1830 (also on 15555) and has been heard to carry the Afghan station Voice of Unity (1530-1630, also on 15050 and 11630). This sharing of frequencies confirms that all four stations share the same site in Egypt. (Chris Greenway)

September 1985: A new station called Radio Free Afghanistan will start broadcasting this coming October or November. It will be financed by the US Government, based at the offices of the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich and will use the same transmission facilities as RFE/RL. RFA will broadcast for 30 minutes a day in Dari and Pashto, the principle languages of Afghanistan. No new transmitters will be needed as RL already broadcasts to those areas adjacent to Afghanistan. (Media Network, 15 August 1985)

October 1985: Radio Afghanistan has English to Europe from 1900 on 9665, 11755, 11880 and 15530 kHz. (Ron Cross); The English transmission via Soviet relay at 0900-1030 observed on 17655. (Edwin Southwell)

December 1985: Radio Afghanistan in English at 0900-1030 to South and South-East Asia is now on 15435 kHz via USSR, replacing 17655, which now carries Radio Moscow World Service. English to Europe at 1900-1930 is now heard on 5900 kHz. (Edwin Southwell)

May 1986: Radio Afghanistan broadcasts via the USSR relay at 1730 to Europe on 7170 and 7180 kHz. English is at 1900 on 5900, 6020 and 9655 kHz. (Sweden Calling DXers)

June 1986: Radio Afghanistan broadcast via USSR in English to South Asia at 0900-1030 on 15435 and 17720 kHz. (Sweden Calling DXers)

July 1986: Radio Afghanistan is now broadcasting in English to Europe via the USSR relay at 1900 on 9635, 9665 and 11880 kHz. (Sweden Calling DXers)

March 1987: Radio Afghanistan's home service has been heard on 4775 kHz, parallel to 4740 kHz at around 1900 with a weak signal. The frequency also carries Radio Iran Toilers, the anti-Khomeini clandestine station at 0230. (Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR); this frequency has been observed carrying a separate service of Radio Afghanistan to that on 4740 kHz, and also with Radio Iran Toilers between 1630-1730, parallel with 10870 kHz. The latter appears not to be jammed. (Tony Rogers)

April 1987: Radio Afghanistan is now using 9530 kHz for the English transmission to Europe via transmitters in the USSR. However, there is severe interference on this frequency from USSR jammers against the VOA Russian service. (Sweden Calling DXers)

May 1987: Radio Afghanistan can be heard at 1900-1930 in English to Europe via the relay in the USSR on 7160, 9530 and 9635 kHz. (Sweden Calling DXers)

Radio Iran Toilers (pro-communist via Afghanistan) can be heard at 1530-1730 on 4775, 6230 and 10870 kHz. The address is PO Box 49034, S-10028 Stockholm 49, Sweden. (Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR)

September 1987: The external service of Radio Afghanistan now broadcasts in English to South Asia at 0900-1030 on 15255 and 17655 kHz direct. (Sweden Calling DXers)

October 1987: Radio Free Afghanistan is scheduled to broadcast at 1400-1430 on 15445, 11875 and 11770 kHz, as well as at 0300-0330 on 11725, 9750 and 7145 kHz. Programmes are in Dari. (Station Schedule)

December 1987: Radio Afghanistan altered its transmission schedule on 1 November and as a result those to Europe go out from 1730-1930 on 6020 and 4760 kHz, with English at 1900-1930. (Station Schedule)

14 April 1988: *The Soviet government signs the Geneva Accords, which includes a timetable for withdrawing their armed forces from Afghanistan.*

April 1988: The anti-Afghan government station Voice of Unity is heard at 1530 on 15685 and 17540 kHz in Pashto/Dari. (Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR)

June 1988: Radio Afghanistan has English to Asia at 0900-1030 on 17655, 15255, 9635, 6075 and 4450 kHz, and to Europe at 1900-1930 on 11755 and 9665 kHz. The home service relay is on 15255 kHz at 0130-0600+. (Media Network)

September 1988: Radio Afghanistan appears to have replaced 4450 with 4760 kHz for minority language broadcasts and broadcasts to neighbouring countries 0130-1700, parallel to 6085 kHz, then a relay of the main domestic service 1700-1930 in Pashto and Dari, parallel to 4740, 3965 and 1107 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

October 1988: Radio Free Afghanistan is scheduled: 0230-0330 on 15115, 11935 and 9555; 1330-1430 on 21530, 17735 and 15370 kHz. (RCI DX Digest)

November 1988: Radio Afghanistan announces 4770, 6020 and 9635 kHz for English at 1900-1930. 7130 kHz also heard. (Alan Roe, Sweden Calling DXers)

December 1988: Radio Afghanistan in English to Europe at 1900-1930 is on 4760, 6020 and 9635 kHz. (Edwin Southwell)

The USSR has significantly reduced their jamming activities. Observations made since 30 November suggest the following situation. Radio Liberty, Radio Free Afghanistan and Kol Israel free from jamming. Radio Free Europe is only jammed for Czech and Bulgarian broadcasts. VOA and DW only jammed for Pashto and Dari broadcasts. Radio Tirana and RAI Italy only jammed for Bulgarian broadcasts. It's the first time in 40 years that RFE/RL broadcasts to the USSR have not suffered jamming.

January 1989: Radio Afghanistan external service in English is scheduled 0900-1030 on 4760, 6085, 9635, 15435 and 17720 kHz; 1900-1930 on 4760 and 6020 kHz. (BBCM Monitoring)

February 1989: 15 February 1989 is the deadline for the Soviet withdrawal. Currently the 0900-1030 English transmission from Radio Afghanistan is carried via USSR relays on 17720 and 15435 kHz. Will these continue after 15 February? (Victor Goonetilleka via Media Network)

15 February 1989: *The last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan.*

March 1989: Radio Afghanistan domestic service is now heard on 4940 kHz (ex-4760) at 0700-0900 in Pashto and Dari; 0900-1030 in English; 1030-1940 relay of Afghan radio's First/Second Programmes. The Kabul City Service is currently heard on 4775 and 6100 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

Voice of Afghanistan current schedule: 0730-0915 on 6100 kHz, 1130-1230 on 5300v and 6100 kHz. Mostly in Pashto/Dari but also in other languages including English around 0858-0910. (BBC Monitoring)

April 1989: Radio Afghanistan heard on 21600 kHz (ex-15435) between 0700-1030 (English 0900-1030) with external service and 1030-1200 with their Second Programme in Pasha'i, Nuristani and Baluchi, all parallel to 17720 kHz. (Dave Kernick)

Radio Afghanistan to Europe: German 1830-1900, English 1900-1930 on 9640 and 11830 kHz. (Radio World)

Voice of Unity schedule in Dari and Pashto: 0130-0225, 1200-1255 and 1515-1610 on 15685, 12230 and 11490 kHz. Address: Voice of Unity, Radio Muslim Mojahedin of Afghanistan, PO Box 2605, Hamburg 60, West Germany. (BBC Monitoring)

Voice of Afghanistan broadcasts in Pashto and Dari plus some items in English, Russian and Uzbek. 0130-0430 on 5920 and 4200 kHz, 0730-0910 on 6100, 5300 and 4200 kHz, 1130-1430 on 6100, 5825, 5300, 4200, 3800 and 3230 kHz, 1515-1815 on 6100, 5825, 4200 and 3840 kHz. Address: PO Box 1207, Peshawar, Pakistan. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Free Afghanistan via RFE/RL: 0230-0300 in Pashto on 11770, 11825, 15340 and 15370 kHz, 0300-0330 in Dari on 11770, 11825, 15370 and 15445 kHz, 1330-1430 in Pashto & Dari on 11885, 17612.5, 17895 and 21530 kHz. (Wolfgang Bueschel)

June 1989: Radio Afghanistan English schedule: 0900-1030 on 17655, 15255, 9635, 6085 and 4940 kHz; 1900-1930 on 15510 and 11755 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

January 1990: Radio Afghanistan now uses 9635, 7215 and 6020 kHz for Pashto/Dari 1730-1830, German 1830-1900 and English 1900-1930. Also recently heard on 6310 kHz. (Edwin Southwell, Dave Kenny)

The Afghan opposition station Voice of Unity now operate at 0125-0225, 1200-1255 and 1515-1610, all on 11490, 12230 and 15685 kHz.

February 1990: Radio Afghanistan broadcasts to Europe 1700-1800 in Pashto/Dari, 1800-1830 in German, 1830-1930 in English and 1930-2000 in French, on 6020, 7215 and 9635 kHz. The English programme has been extended from 30 to 60 minutes. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Afghanistan's domestic service is now using 4975 kHz (ex-3965), parallel to 4740 kHz and sometimes 4940 kHz. (Dave Kernick)

April 1990: Radio Afghanistan relays via Soviet transmitters are now heard on 15440 and 11830 kHz, with 9635 kHz from Afghanistan itself, at 1700-1800 in Pashto/Dari, 1800-1830 in German, 1830-1930 in English and 1930-2000 in French. (Andy Sennitt, Dave Kernick)

July 1990: Radio Afghanistan now has English to Asia at 0930-1030 on 21600, 17655 and 9635 kHz. European services at 1700 in Pashto/Dari, 1800 German, 1830 English and 1930 French are now on 17745, 15510 and 9635 kHz. (Nicholas Vaughan-Baker)

October 1990: Radio Afghanistan are announcing the following frequencies for English to Europe and North America: 1830-1930 on 9635, 9665 and 11755 kHz. (Edwin Southwell)

December 1990: The external service of Radio Afghanistan uses 9635 kHz (direct from Kabul) and USSR relays on 7215 and 6020 kHz for broadcasts to Europe at 1700-1800 in Pashto/Dari, 1800-1830 in German, 1830-1930 in English and 1930-2000 in French. (Edwin Southwell, Dave Kenny)

Radio Free Afghanistan, operated by RFE/RL, has the following schedule:
0230-0300 Pashto on 7255-Biblis, 9540-Lampertheim, 9555-Gloria, 11770-Gloria
0300-0330 Dari on 7295-Biblis, 9540-Lampertheim, 9555-Lampertheim, 11775-Gloria
1330-1430 Pashto/Dari on 17895-Biblis, 21510-Holzkirchen, 21530-Gloria
(Bob Padula/ADXN via DSWCI SW News)

What is thought to be a new station, Radio Mojahidin of Afghanistan, has been heard on 6140 kHz since 7 November 1990, at 0200-0330 and at 1230. Programmes are in Pashto/Dari as well as Uzbek and Russian. An address is announced of PO Box 204, Peshawar, Pakistan. (BBC Monitoring)

February 1991: Radio Afghanistan is heard at 0930-1030 on new 15350 kHz. (Alan Roe)

April 1991: Radio Afghanistan is heard in English at 1830-1930 on new 11830 kHz. (Tony Vaughan)

May 1991: The Mujahidin have started experimental broadcasts from a radio station in Khost that they recently captured. They have named the station "Radio Voice of Afghanistan, Khost". According to reports, the messages of prisoners of war captured are being broadcast by the station for an hour a day. (BBC Monitoring)

June 1991: Radio Afghanistan has retimed some services:
0730-0930 Pashto/Dari 9635 17655 21600 kHz 1730-1800 German 9635 11845 15510 kHz
0930-1030 English 9635 17655 21600 kHz 1800-1830 English 9635 11845 15510 kHz
1630-1730 Pashto/Dari 11845 15510 kHz 1930-1900 French 9635 11845 15510 kHz (BBCM)

July 1991: Voice of the Mojahed of Afghanistan has been heard 0100-0200 and 1415-1515 on 3250v kHz; also announces 5800 and 1200 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

November 1991: Radio Afghanistan broadcasts to Europe in German at 1730-1800. English is at 1800-1900 and French at 1900-1930 on 9635 kHz and via USSR relays on 9890 and 12060 kHz. (BRT/Radio World)

December 1991: Radio Afghanistan has English broadcasts at 0930-1030 to Asia on 9635 15140 17720 kHz and 1800-1900 to Europe/North America on 6145 7215 9635 kHz. (Edwin Southwell, BBC Monitoring)

January 1992: As of 1 January 1992, Radio Afghanistan is no longer relayed via transmitters in the former USSR. Radio Afghanistan's domestic and external service frequencies such as 4740, 4940, 4975, 6145 and 7215 kHz now carry various Radio Moscow services. (BBC Monitoring)

February 1992: With relays via transmitters in the former-USSR having ceased, Radio Afghanistan domestic First Programme is heard on 1107 and 7200 kHz only, with the shortwave frequency running 0300-1600. The Radio Afghanistan service for National Minorities in neighbouring countries is only heard on 6100 kHz. (BBC Monitoring, Media Network)

Radio Afghanistan's external service in English is at 0930-1030, 1300-1330 and 1900-2000 and is now only heard on 9635 kHz direct from Afghanistan. (BBC Monitoring, Media Network)

March 1992: Radio Message of Freedom (Dari/Pashto: Radio Pyam-e-Azadi) is a new station of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. It broadcasts in Dari/Pashto at 0115-0315 and 1400-1500 on 7090 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

It appears that Voice of Unity has ceased. It has not been heard for several months. (BBC Monitoring)

24 April 1992: *After the fall of the communist Najibullah regime, Afghan political parties sign the Peshawar Accord which creates the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi is proclaimed the first interim president. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i Islami forces with the support of neighboring Pakistan start a massive bombardment campaign against the Islamic State in the capital Kabul. Hekmatyar who is repeatedly offered the post of prime minister strives for undisputed dictatorial power.*

June 1992: On 25 April 1992, when the forces of Ahmad Shah Massoud took over Kabul, Radio Afghanistan also fell under his control. The external service has not been heard since that date, but the domestic service First Programme has been noted using 1107, 7202.3 and 9635 kHz, the latter which was used for the external service, with Pashto and Dari programming. On 26 April only, the identification "Radio of the Islamic State of Afghanistan" was used. Also on 26 April, a relay of Radio Afghanistan was heard at 1400-1445 on 7090v kHz replacing the broadcast from Radio Pyam-e-Azadi, but for this day only. (Victor Goonetilleke, Media Network)

Radio Pyam-e-Azadi (Radio Message of Freedom), which supports Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, continues to use 7090v kHz at 0115-0315 and 1400-1500. The address is: Radio Message of Freedom, University Town, GPO Box 857, Peshawar, Pakistan. (BBC Monitoring, Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR)

Voice of Afghanistan (Sada-e-Afghanistan) continues to be heard in Pashto/Dari with broadcasts at 0130-0245 on 6146 kHz, 1315-1415 on 6146 and 7125 kHz, and 1415-1515 on 6146 kHz, with frequencies also announced for 3.8 and 5.3 MHz at 0130 and 1315. An address is announced: GPO 27, Peshawar, Pakistan. (BBC Monitoring, Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR)

It remains to be seen what will happen to the US-backed Radio Free Afghanistan, which broadcasts via the facilities of RFE/RL. It may be discontinued or could change its role, as RFE/RL has done for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The current schedule is:

0230-0245 Pashto and 0245-0300 Dari on 9715 9770 11815 11970 kHz

0300-0315 Pashto and 0315-0330 Dari on 9715 9770 11815 11970 kHz

1300-1315 Pashto and 1315-1330 Dari on 15445 17725 17760 17835 21510 kHz

1530-1545 Pashto and 1545-1600 Dari on 15160 17805 21510 kHz (BBC Monitoring, World of Radio)

November 1992: Radio Afghanistan domestic service First Programme has been heard by BBCM on 4775 and 7200v kHz at 0130-0430 and 1330-1730. Meanwhile, Radio Afghanistan's external service is heard on 9635 kHz, presumably with English scheduled at 0930-1030, 1300-1330 and 1900-2000.

December 1992: Further to last month's news about Afghanistan, Radio Afghanistan's external service was heard by Adolf Schwegeler with news in English on 9635 kHz at 1830 on 8 November 1992.

May 1993: Radio Afghanistan has resumed broadcasts to South Asia on 7200 kHz (occasionally announced as 9635 kHz) in English at 1430-1500 and Urdu at 1500-1530, followed by the domestic service from 1530-1730. (BBC Monitoring)

October 1993: According to information given by the Director of Radio Afghanistan, the transmitters have nearly all been destroyed. Reception is only possible in the Kabul area. (KW Panorama, Hans-Peter Tillmann)

November 1993: Radio Afghanistan external service has been heard on 4775 kHz with the following schedule: 1400 in Urdu, 1500 in Russian, 1530 in Arabic. (BBC Monitoring)

March 1994: Radio Afghanistan's domestic service is currently only on mediumwave 1278 kHz. It is controlled by the Masud-Rabbani faction. Frequencies formerly used for Radio Afghanistan domestic services include shortwave 4775v, 6100 and 7200v kHz. Radio Afghanistan's external service, which was heard in 1993, operated on 4775v, 7200 or 9635 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1994: The clandestine Radio Message of Freedom supports the Islamic Party of Afghanistan led by Golboddin Hekmatyar. Address: GPO Box 875, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan. The station continues to announce that it is broadcasting on its former frequency of 7090 kHz. A previously-observed transmission in Pashto and Dari at 1400-1530 is no longer announced or heard. Current schedule: 0145-0315 and 0730-0830 in Pashto/Dari on 7000v kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

August 1994: *The Taliban movement began to form in a small village between Lashkar Gah and Kandahar.*

December 1994: Radio Message of Freedom, operated by the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, has been monitored by BBCM on 7090 kHz at 0730-0830 in Pashto and Dari. It announces that it is also on at 0230. (BBC Monitoring, Finn Krone/World DX News via AWR)

May 1995: Radio Message of Freedom (pro-Hekmatyar) was heard again on 28 March 1995 after an absence of six weeks. It has appeared to suspend transmissions following the capture of Hekmatyar's HQ at Charasiab on 13 February. The schedule is: 0230-0330 (unconfirmed) and 0730-0830 in Pashto/Dari on 6145 and 7090v kHz. In the past an address has been given as GPO Box 875, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan. (BBCM)

November 1995: Radio Afghanistan, Kabul, is controlled by President Burhanuddin Rabbani: The schedule consists of the domestic service in Pashto/Dari at 0130-0335 (ex-Fri), 0330-0800 (Fri only), 0730-0830 (ex-Fri) and 1330-1630 (daily), followed by the external service in Urdu at 1630-1645v and English at 1645-1700v, all on mediumwave 1278 and 1600 kHz and shortwave 7200 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

January 1996: Radio Afghanistan has been heard in local languages at 1700-1730 on 7200 kHz. (RVI RW)

February 1996: New opposition radio, Radio Voice of Shari'ah (Islamic Law), supports the Taliban Islamic Movement. It broadcast in Pashto and Dari at 0350-0420 on 7090v kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Message of Freedom, supporting the opposition Islamic Party (Hezb-e-Eslami) led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, is on a new frequency of 6235 kHz, along with existing 7090v kHz, at 0230-0400 and 0730-0900. (BBC Monitoring)

April 1996: Radio Message of Freedom has been heard on 6235, 6145 and 6240 kHz between 0230-0400 and 0730-0900. (BBC Monitoring)

September 1996: *The Taliban takes over Kabul and creates the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.*

October 1996: The last transmission monitored from Radio Afghanistan in Kabul, before the Taliban forces took control of the city, was the 1530 news bulletin on 25 September 1996. At just before 0330 on 26 September, an announcer read out the Dari text of an amnesty decree by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar. Radio Afghanistan was not heard again until 1330 on 27 September. Radio Afghanistan's programmes are heard mainly on mediumwave 1278 kHz and shortwave 7200 kHz. A transmission on 1600 kHz has also been intercepted. Transmission times from Radio Afghanistan still fall between 0200-0335 and 1330-1700, but since the Taliban takeover they have become variable and are much reduced. It has also been observed that Radio Afghanistan has been identifying as "Radio Voice of Shari'ah". (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Voice of Shari'ah, which made broadcasts hostile to the former government of Afghanistan and which gave publicity to the Islamic Movement and the Taliban, has not been heard recently on its 7 MHz shortwave frequency. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Message of Freedom, supporting the Islamic Party of Afghanistan led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, was last heard on 24 September 1996 on 6221 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

February 1997: Kabul in Pashto/Dari observed on 14 December 1996 on 7200 kHz at 0230, mentioning Taliban over and over again. Suffering from jamming station in background. (Wolfgang Bueschel, BC-DX)

April 1997: An anti-Taliban Radio Afghanistan has been heard since 22 February 1997 in Pashto and Dari on a frequency between 7080-7100 kHz from 0730-0830. (BBC Monitoring)

May 1997: Voice of Shari'ah in Kabul begins its evening broadcast at 1330 on 7200 and 1107 kHz. (Sarath Weerakoon/Union Asian DXers, 27 March, via BC-DX)

The pro-Rabbani/anti-Taliban Radio Afghanistan in Dari and Pashto is currently heard on 7082v kHz at 1330-1430. (Sarath Weerakoon/Union Asian DXers, 27 March, via BC-DX)

August 1997: Voice of Free Tajikistan (Tajik: Sado-i Tajikistan-i Ozod) broadcasts in opposition to the current government in Dushanbe and in support of the various Tajik opposition groups based in Afghanistan. It also identifies as "the Messenger of Khorasan" (Payk-i Khorasan). Khorasan is the term used to describe the region in Central Asia once inhabited by Tajiks and Persians. The schedule is based on station announcements in June 1997. The station is believed to broadcast from northern Afghanistan. Broadcasts are in Tajik or Russian at 0230-0330, 0330-0430, 0530-0630 & 0630-0730 on 5960v and 7100v kHz (BBC Monitoring, 26 June 1997)

April 1998: The anti-Taliban station which identifies as Radio Afghanistan appears to be operated by supporters of Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former president of Afghanistan. According to pro-Rabbani officials, the radio broadcasts from a facility in Taloqan in northern Afghanistan and shares the same frequency, and possibly the facilities, with the Voice of Free Tajikistan. The start time of their transmissions can vary by up to ten minutes and transmissions can be erratic. The latest schedule is daily from 0230-0330 and 1430-1530 on 7084v kHz. All transmissions are in Dari and Pashto. (BBC Monitoring)

May 1998: Radio Voice of Shari'ah: on 7200 kHz, after several tries since receiving them back in October 1996 they have now replied by a partly detailed letter of confirmation. Verification signer: A. Rahaman Nasser, Dep. Eng. (Pres. of Planning and Foreign Relations, Afghan Radio TV, PO Box 544, Kabul), writes that Radio Voice of Shari'ah (ex-Radio Afghanistan) altogether has a staff of over 1000 people working in programme and technical sections. They broadcast 13 programme hours a day, including half an hour of English and Urdu programming. Frequencies mentioned: 1107, 1278, 9635 kHz. So, maybe after quite a long time of silence since the Taliban took over power, the Afghan broadcasting station might now have resumed answering letters from foreign listeners. (Harald Kuhl, Germany, via BC-DX)

September 1998: Radio Voice of Shari'ah uses 7200v kHz at various times of the day and may be observed with news and programmes as follows: 0030-0235 Pashto/Dari, 1430-1500 Pashvani and Nuristani, 1500-1530 Pashto, 1530-1600 Dari, 1600-1615 Uzbek, 1615-1630 Turkmen, 1630-1645 Urdu, 1645-1700 English, 1700-1715 Arabic, 1730-1800 Pashto, 1800-1840 Dari. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Voice of Shari'ah has been heard on 7200.2v kHz from 1504-1842 in many languages, including an English broadcast from 1645-1700. Reception was mostly poor, but sometimes fair and occasionally almost good! (Mikhail Timofeyev, Russia)

Since the takeover of Taloqan by Taliban forces in mid-August 1998, Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Takhar Province has been heard at 1230-1325 in Dari/Pashto on 7085 kHz. Until 9 August 1998, Takhar Radio had broadcast in support of Burhanuddin Rabbani, former president of Afghanistan, who was ousted from Kabul by Taliban forces in September 1996. (BBC Monitoring)

October 1998: Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Takhar Province is the former "Radio Afghanistan" that was pro-Jamiat-e-Islamic (Rabbani party) and anti-Taliban orientated. The broadcasts were thought to be from Pakistan and possibly they also shared a transmitter with the Voice of Free Tajikistan. The languages were Pashto and Dari, and the identification in Pashto was Radio Afghanistan, Baroi-e Afghanistan. They were active since January 1997 and were monitored in March 1998 by BBC Monitoring from 1430-1530.

There are now Voice of Shari'ah radio stations in most provincial towns in Afghanistan. The majority broadcast on mediumwave. These stations are not clandestines since the Taliban is now the defacto government of practically the whole of Afghanistan. (Dave Kenny)

November 1998: Radio Voice of Shari'ah, Kabul, noted on 7195 kHz with sign-on at 1430 with a religious song and ID as "Kabul Afghanistan", followed by a religious talk in Dari or Pashto. (Mahendra Vaghjee, 1 October, via EDXP)

Voice of Shari'ah on 4775 kHz says it is "back on" this frequency, with 100 kW, in addition to 7200 kHz. (BBC Monitoring); difficult to confirm this, the channel is occupied by AIR-Imphal, 50 kW, absolutely no signs of Kabul on the frequency. (Sarath Weerakoon via Numero Uno)

December 1998: On 17 October 1998, the radio station in Taloqan, capital of Takhar Province, north-east of Kabul, was observed on 7085 kHz broadcasting under the control of anti-Taliban Afghan opposition forces, for the first time since 9 August 1998. At 1237 on 17 October an announcer said in Dari: "Dear listeners of Radio Takhar, peace and the blessing of God be upon you. I will congratulate you, religious people of Takhar Province, on the occasion of the triumphant liberation of Takhar Province by powerful forces of the army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Radio Takhar of Takhar Province will start its programme with a recitation of verses from the Holy Koran". At 1250, the station broadcast songs and music in Dari and Pashto from the former pro-communist era of the late 1970's-80's. This transmission was the first observed by anti-Taliban Afghan opposition forces from Radio Takhar since 9 August. On 11 August, Taloqan was captured by Taliban forces, and pro-Taliban Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Takhar Province was observed from 15 August on 7085 kHz. The last pro-Taliban broadcast from this station was monitored on 16 October, after which it appears to have come under the control of anti-Taliban forces. (BBC Monitoring)

On 18 October, Radio Takhar was heard at 1230 on 7085 kHz; the broadcast consisted entirely of songs about the motherland, sung in Dari and Pashto. Concluding the broadcast at 1315, a presented announced that from 19 October, Radio Takhar would broadcast from 1130-1230. (BBC Monitoring)

January 1999: Radio Voice of Shari'ah is now on shortwave 7080v and 4775v kHz (+/- 5 kHz) at various times between 0130-1730, including news in English at 1700-1715.

February 1999: Voice of Shari'ah heard on 7079v kHz at 1300-1715 on 2 January 1999, mostly religious programmes in the month of fasting, currently heard in Pashto/Dari with good quality sigs. Arabic at 1645 and English 1700. (Sarath Weerakoon, Sri Lanka via BC-DX)

May 1999: Takhar Radio broadcasts in support of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. They can currently be heard at 0230-0330 and 1230-1300 on 7070v kHz. Programmes are in Pashto and Dari. (BBC Monitoring)

July 1999: Takhar Radio broadcasts in support of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance led by Ahmad Shah Masud. Takhar Radio was controlled by the Taliban from August to October 1998 when it was known as "Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Takhar Province". The current schedule in Dari and Pashto is 1300-1415, repeated 0130-0245, both on 7070v kHz (alt: 7085 kHz). (BBC Monitoring)

September 1999: Voice of Shari'ah has returned to its old frequency of 7200 kHz, heard around 1620-1635. Weak and covered by Radio Japan. (Mahendra Vaghjee, Mauritius, 26 July via Cumber DX)

November 1999: Mauno Ritola in Finland posted the following via Hard Core DX: an unidentified station is heard with a good signal in the afternoon. The language could well be Pashto (at least not Farsi). It is in many cases as strong as Iran on the same frequency. At 1430 I heard an identification, but couldn't get much out of it. It was something like "Afghanistan balg ... (a few words) ... Radio". How does Radio Afghanistan identify nowadays? Maybe a drift from 1600 kHz? Or a clandestine?

Dave Kenny replied: What you heard was almost certainly the Afghan provincial station Balkh Radio, broadcasting from Mazr-e Sharif. Balk would sound very similar to the word "Balg", which you heard. The BBCM database lists it on 1584 kHz at 0130-0330 and 1330-1530 daily, timings vary. An excellent catch. (Mauno Ritola/Dave Kenny via HCDX)

December 1999: Anti-Taliban Takhar Radio was heard on 7000 kHz on 25 November at 0250-0330. Takhar Radio was formerly heard on 7070 and 7085 kHz, 1230-1330, but has been unheard since April 1999. When it was traced at 0250 on 25 November, a religious programme in Dari was in progress. (BBC Monitoring)

February 2000: Voice of Shari'ah is using a new 500 kW transmitter in Kabul on 657 kHz. It operates at various times between 0130-1730 parallel with the 100 kW unit on 1107 kHz. (BBC Monitoring)

Kabul was noted on 29 December, and subsequent days, on 1107 kHz during the local evening, including the regular English slot at 1500-1515. Unfortunately the signal always fades under a co-channel Indian station when an English ID should be audible at the top of the hour, so I'm not sure exactly what they call themselves now. No trace of them on 7200 kHz which is dominated by VOIRI Tehran at that time. There is a strong and distorted signal audible here at 0515-0600/0645v on 7199.5v kHz, but no idea whether it's them - working on it. (Alan Davies in India, 2 January 2000, via BC-DX)

Takhar Radio broadcasts from the north of Afghanistan in support of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance led by Ahmad Shah Masud and Borhanoddin Rabbani. It can currently be heard in Europe from 0230/0235 till 0330/0335 on 7000 kHz. (Dave Kernick)

March 2000: Afghan Taliban radio station Voice of Shari'ah announced at 1500 on 15 February that it had resumed broadcasting on the shortwave 41-metre band frequency of 7000 kHz. Radio Voice of Shari'ah was confirmed by BBC Monitoring on 7002.2 kHz (variable) when checked from 1345-1630 on 17 February. The shortwave frequency was observed in parallel with 657 kHz mediumwave. Following domestic programming in Pashto and Dari, the radio carried a news bulletin in English at 1500-1520 followed by news in Urdu at 1520. (BBC Monitoring research 15-17 February via DX Listening Digest)

May be it's obvious for most of us, but the recent move of Kabul based Voice of Shari'ah to 7002v kHz might be connected to the activities of opposition voice Takhar Radio on 7000v kHz. So take care when trying to identify which of the Afghan voices you actually hear as it seems the Kabul authorities take Takhar Radio quite seriously. (Harald Kuhl, Germany, 19 February, via HCDX via DX Listening Digest)

Kabul has changed frequency from 7002 to 7073 kHz and its programmes too, heard 1435 and was still on the air at 1750. No English and Urdu programme has been heard at that time but it would be interesting to note that there was less religious talk and songs; instead there was talk on Islamic Conference and half an hour talk on Kashmir. Time pips every half hour then ID as "Afghanistan Kabul" just before news bulletin in its different programmes and at no time has the word Shari'ah been mentioned; also from time to time the station has been jammed (by whom?). (Mahendra Vaghjee, Mauritius, 19 February, via DX Listening Digest)

April 2000: Taliban radio's new service in Russian was confirmed on 7 March from Radio Voice of Shari'ah at 1630-1645 on 1107 and 7073 kHz. Programme consisted of news and commentary. (BBC Monitoring via DX Listening Digest). English still reported around 1500-1515 on 7073v-ed.

May 2000: Radio Voice of Shari'ah on 7075v kHz as per BBCM monitoring observations: 0100-0330 Pashto/Dari, 0330-0800(Fri only) Pashto/Dari, 1230-1500 Pashto/Dari, 1500-1515 English, 1515-1545 Urdu, 1545-1600 Arabic, 1600-1615 Turkmen, 1615-1630 Uzbek and 1630-1700 Russian. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Voice of Shari'ah English programme producer Ahmad Shoaib Sharafi answered and confirmed a reception report with an e-mail from english.program@usa.net. He called the station "RadRadio Voice of Shariat", but I suspect it's a typo, because the English is quite "broken". He wants to have comments and suggestions as well as cooperation when making programmes. (Bjorn Fransson, Sweden, 9 April via BC-DX)

June 2000: Voice of Shari'ah English programme changes time: Afghan Taliban radio said on 21 April that its English-language programme would be now aired at 1530, half an hour later than before. The programme will be now broadcast at 2000 local time. (BBC Monitoring via DXLD)

July 2000: Radio Voice of Shari'ah operates on 1107 and 7087v kHz as follows: 0100-0330 except Friday in Pashto/Dari, 0330-0800 Friday only in Pashto/Dari, 1300-1530 in Pashto/Dari, 1530-1545 English, 1545-1600 Arabic, 1600-1615 Turkmen, 1615-1630 Uzbek, 1630-1650 Urdu, and 1650-1710 Russian. Address: Afghan Radio, PO Box 544, Kabul. (BBC Monitoring)

Radio Voice of Shari'ah on 657 kHz operates 0130-0330(exc Fri), 0330-0800(Fri) and 1300-1800. (BBCM)

Provincial stations: 1548v kHz Balkh Radio (Mazar-e Sharif), frequencies unknown for Fariab Radio (Maymana) and Badghiz Radio. (BBC Monitoring)

August 2000: The Information Minister of the Taliban government has rejected reports by the Pakistani press about possible reintroduction of TV broadcasting in Afghanistan. (via Mike Terry)

September 2000: Voice of the Shari'ah heard on approx 7083 kHz at 1531 in English with male singing (in English) without musical accompaniment about the joys/benefits of Islam. Male talk but hard to decipher due to erratically fluctuating signal. Poor to Fair reception. (Famularo (location?), 6 November, via Cumbre DX)

March 2001: *The Buddhas of Bamiyan are blown up and destroyed by the Taliban.*

April 2001: The ruling Taliban expelled BBC London from Afghanistan on 14 March for transmitting criticism of the group's destruction of all ancient statues, including two large Buddha's. The Taliban were angered by an interview with a US professor broadcast by the BBC. After the broadcast which described the destruction as barbaric, the Taliban issued an order for the BBC to close its Kabul office and withdraw its correspondent, Kate Clark within 24 hours. (PTI, Reuters, Harjot Singh Brah, EDXP via BC-DX)

June 2001: The latest edition of "Broadcasting in Russian" brings this interesting information: the Radio Afghanistan transmitter in Kabul on 1107 kHz has 1000 kW. This excellent survey of broadcasts in Russian includes not only transmissions from the whole world but also valuable information on Russia and countries of the former USSR. (Karel Honzik, Czech Rep, via HCDX)

9 September 2001: *Assassination of anti-Taliban resistance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud: Two Arab suicide bombers posing as French journalists detonate explosives during an interview in his northern Afghanistan headquarters of Khoja Bahauddin.*

11 September 2001: *Terrorist attacks on the United States.*

October 2001: Feature: Around the Dial - Monitoring World Developments in the Afghan Conflict.

Confirmation of the current schedule of Radio Voice of Shari'ah in the aftermath of 9/11: 0100-0245(exc-Fri), 0245-0800(Fri) and 1230-1530 in Pashto/Dari on 657, 1107 and 7087v kHz; 1530-1730 in Pashto/Dari on 657 kHz; 1530-1545 in English, 1545-1600 in Arabic, 1600-1615 in Turkmen, 1615-1630 in Uzbek, 1630-1650 in Urdu and 1650-1710 in Russian on 1107 and 7087v kHz.

Radio Voice of Shari'ah's shortwave frequency is variable. Heard often around 7087 kHz but on 22 September 2001 it was observed by Anker Petersen in Denmark on 7100.1 kHz in Pashto around 0130.

Note: Radio Voice of Shari'ah on 7087v kHz may be subject to interference from Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan on 7090 kHz from 0245-0400 approx. Careful not to confuse the two.

Jorma Mantyla in Finland reports hearing Voice of Shari'ah on mediumwave 1107 kHz around 1630-1700 with distorted audio but a strong signal.

Provincial Radio Stations in Afghanistan at the time of 9/11:

Badghis Radio - 0130-0300, 1330-1500

Balkh Radio, Mazar-e Sharif - 1584v kHz, 1330-1500

Fariab Radio, Maymana - no further details

Farah Radio - 1130-1230

Ghazni Radio - MW & SW, 0230-0330, 1130-1230

Helmand Radio, Lashkargah - 1330-1430

Herat Radio - no further details

Kandahar Radio - 864 kHz, 0230-0345, 0530-0730(Fri), 1330-1530

Konar Radio - 1580 kHz

Logar Radio - no further details

Nimroz Radio, Ghowr-Ghowri - no further details

Samanagan Radio - 0200-0300, 1300-1400

Sar-e Pol Radio - no further details

Takhar Radio, in support of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, has not been heard recently on 7070 kHz.

7 October 2001: *Operation Enduring Freedom begins: The United States begins an aerial bombing campaign against the Taliban.*

November 2001: Feature: Around the Dial - Monitoring World Developments in the Afghan Conflict.

Kabul radio not heard since 8 October: The Taliban national broadcaster, Radio Voice of Shari'ah from Kabul, has not been heard since 1610 UTC on 8 October. It is believed that this is the moment when the transmitters or studios (or both) were bombed by the US. The domestic service on mediumwave 657 kHz was broadcasting a speech by a pro-Taliban cleric at 1600 condemning US attacks against Afghanistan, which started the previous night. The speech was in progress when reception was lost. The external service, which was heard on shortwave 7085v kHz and mediumwave 1107 kHz, went off air abruptly at the same and has not been heard since.

News agencies reported on 23 October that the Taliban authorities had installed five temporary radio stations around the country as well as a mobile station in Kabul operating with a power of 1 kW. However only two days later, the Kabul station was reportedly attacked and destroyed by the US.

Regional Taliban stations still broadcasting: Since 8 October, BBC Monitoring has only been able to confirm one Taliban-run radio station still on the air. Radio Voice of Shari'ah of Balkh Province, based in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif. It is heard on 1584 kHz from 0230-0430 (not Friday), 0430-0700 (Friday only) and 1230-1500v daily. It seems likely that other Taliban-run provincial radio stations could still be on the air, probably on FM or low-power mediumwave outlets, given that the Mazar-e Sharif station has somehow managed to stay on air with its regular schedule, even though the city has been virtually under siege by opposition forces, and subject to frequent bombing raids by US forces.

Broadcasts from Northern Alliance-held territory: In the past, the Northern Alliance operated Takhar Radio from Taloqan in Takhar Province using a low power shortwave transmitter on 7 MHz. This station, now believed to be defunct, is pictured in an article in the 2000 edition of "Passport to World Band Radio". Since then, there have been no Northern Alliance-run radio stations on the air apart from a news broadcast by loudspeaker in the towns of Charikar, Jabal os Saraj and Golbahor, which are located in Parwan Province just north of Kabul. There is also a Radio Voice of Mojahed broadcast via the Internet three days per week in Pashto and Dari. However, all this may soon change with plans for a new national shortwave station.

Shortwave transmitters for the Northern Alliance: The Northern Alliance is reported to be awaiting the delivery of two new shortwave radio transmitters donated by China, which will help the opposition movement relaunch its own broadcasts - these transmitters will probably be used for the planned Sedo-e Afghanistan/Voice of Afghanistan service.

New Northern Alliance "state radio" planned - possibly on shortwave: A new "state radio of Afghanistan" called Voice of Afghanistan (Dari: Sado-e Afghanistan) will start to broadcast soon according to the Tajik based Asia-Plus news agency. Editor-in-chief of Voice of Afghanistan, Said Hamid Nuri has said that "all necessary equipment has been purchased". According to him, part of the equipment was bought with financial support from Ahmad Shah Masud (Assassinated senior anti-Taliban commander) and the other part was given by the humanitarian organisation Afghanistan Relief as aid. A group of engineers, who will choose the location for installing the aerial and transmitter, have gone to Fayzabab, the capital of north-eastern Badakhshan Province. New staff are being prepared to work at Voice of Afghanistan. According to the agency, "the radio station is different from other radio stations which exist in the country, as it is going to broadcast to the whole of Afghanistan".

Radio Solh - new French-run FM station: The French organisation Droit de Parole (Right to Speak), which ran the short-lived offshore station Radio Brod from a ship in the Adriatic during the Balkan conflict, has set up a radio station at Jabal os Saraj, a Northern Alliance controlled town in Parwan Province to the north of Kabul. One of its aims is to redress the gender imbalance in the country's broadcast media. The French news agency AFP said that Radio Solh (Radio Peace) was broadcasting for three hours a day on 96 MHz and was able to cover a limited range of about 30 km. A higher powered transmitter is planned, which would extend coverage as far as Kabul.

New Danish-run mediumwave stations planned: A new radio station is due sometime in December broadcasting from Pakistan to Afghanistan - at first aimed at Kabul and Kandahar. The new station will be run by International Media Support (IMS) which was founded recently in Denmark by the Baltic Media Centre among others. The idea of this new radio station is that it should be "an independent station with no political talk, no propaganda and thus different to what comes from the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, the BBC and the Voice of America". The new station will provide "facts and reliable information on the conflict". The IMS feel that there is a huge need for unbiased information on the fighting and current situation; the Afghan people don't trust any of the current media, according to IMS. The new station, which as yet has no name, will be based in Pakistan and will be manned by Afghan journalists. It is expected that it will cost around 5 or 6 million Dkr (610,000-735,000 US dollars) to run for the first six months. A Danish delegation is currently in Pakistan to negotiate a licence for the station, and the current plan is to open two 200 Watt mediumwave transmitters in Quetta and Peshawar. (Stig Hartvig Nielsen, Denmark, 25 October via DXLD); as Glenn Hauser commented, it seems unlikely that 200 Watts would reach very far into Afghanistan!

Radio Pakistan's "Voice of a Friend": Radio Pakistan's Peshawar station launched a new Dari-language programme on 12 October, "Nawa-e Dost" (Voice of a Friend). It is on air from 1805 to 1900 UTC from a 300 kW mediumwave transmitter on 540 kHz. The programme is also said to be on shortwave. The station said that the Dari-language programme "will provide an important source of current affairs for listeners in far-flung areas of Afghanistan". The address has been announced as Nawa-e Dost, Radio Pakistan, PO Box 64, Peshawar, Pakistan.

A station called Information Radio, part of the US military's psychological operations aimed at Afghanistan, was first heard by BBC Monitoring on 14 October and has since been heard by DXers worldwide on shortwave 8700 kHz usb. It is on the air daily from 0030-0530 and 1230-1730. Programming consists of lively Afghan music with announcements in Dari and Pashto. Leaflets in both languages are said to have been dropped in Afghanistan by the US military giving details of the times and frequencies of these broadcasts. There are also reports, as yet unconfirmed, that radios may have been dropped. The frequencies listed on the leaflet are 8700 kHz shortwave, as well as 865 and 1107 kHz mediumwave. The 1107 kHz channel was a Radio Voice of Shari'ah, Kabul, frequency, while 864 kHz was used by the provincial Voice of Shari'ah station in Kandahar. The shortwave channel is something of a mystery as few radios in Afghanistan are likely to be able to hear it, particularly since it is transmitting is usb. One theory is that the US military made a mistake, intending to use the Voice of Shari'ah shortwave channel of 7080v kHz, but somehow got the digits muddled up! Another possibility is that 8700 kHz is primarily being used as a feeder to the aircraft, which rebroadcast its output on mediumwave.

The mediumwave 864 and 1107 kHz outlets are believed to be broadcast from 10 kW transmitters on board an EC130E aircraft flying at a high altitude above Afghanistan. These "Commando Solo" broadcasts are operated by the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard of Harrisburg and the US Army's 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Previous broadcast missions in which EC130E aircraft were used include Haiti (Radio Democracy), Kuwait/Iraq (Gulf Voice) and Kosovo/Serbia (Allied Voice).

The transmitter location for 8700 kHz has not yet been confirmed, although there has been speculation among DXers that this could be from somewhere in Central Asia, perhaps Turkmenistan. In an interview with Hans Johnson of "Cumbre DX", Lt. Shank of the 193rd Special Operations Wing said that "Unfortunately, it will take a thorough after-actions briefing further down the road" to officially confirm its location. In the past, reception reports have been confirmed by QSL, the address is: 193rd Special Operations Wing, Attn: Lt. Edward Shank, 81 Constellation Court, Middletown, PA 17057, USA.

VOA, RFE/RL broadcasts via "Commando Solo" aircraft: VOA Communications World has reported that one of the three 10 kW mediumwave transmitters on board the EC130E "Commando Solo" aircraft is relaying Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty broadcasts to Afghanistan in various languages of the region on 980 kHz at the same time as the "Information Radio" broadcasts - 0030-0530 and 1230-1730. RFE/RL itself does not broadcast in the Afghan languages of Dari and Pashto, but plans are afoot to relaunch a "Radio Free Afghanistan" service which operated in the 1980's.

Credits: BBC Monitoring, Glenn Hauser's DX Listening Digest, Cumbre DX, VOA Communications World. (compiled by Tony Rogers and Dave Kenny)

December 2001: Feature: Around the Dial - Monitoring World Developments in the Afghan Conflict.

A new SW station Radio Voice of Afghanistan can be heard daily from 1330-1430 on 9950 kHz. Reception is excellent in Europe, Asia and North America. Test transmissions from this station were first reported by a DXer in Mexico on 17 November and subsequently confirmed by Glenn Hauser and BBCM, which reports that it identifies as "Radio Voice of Afghanistan" (Dari: "Radio Saday-e Afghanistan", Pashto: "Da Afghanistan Ghaq Radio") and "presented by Afghan broadcast agency" (Dari: "Moasesai nasharati Afghan taqtim mi konad", Pashto: "Da Afghan nasharati moasesai warandi kawi"). When monitored on 21 November, the radio announced that "it will begin its main programmes very soon with a speech by the founder of the Radio Voice of Afghanistan and Afghan intellectual, Sayd Jalal Afghan" and that it would broadcast a one-hour daily programme with "the latest international news about Afghanistan as well as cultural, scientific and religious programmes". It has promised to announce an address and phone/fax number "soon". Transmission characteristics and aerial bearings indicate that this radio station is probably broadcasting via a hired relay transmitter in the former Soviet Union/CIS rather than direct from Afghanistan. (BBC Monitoring, DX Listening Digest, and various other sources)

The US PsyOps radio station known as Information Radio continues to broadcast daily from 0030-0530 and 1230-1730 on 8700 kHz upper sideband. It has also been confirmed by BBCM on the former Kandahar radio frequency of 864 kHz mediumwave. The MW frequency is presumed to be from the "Commando Solo" EC130 aircraft flying above Afghanistan but the location of the SW 8700 kHz transmitter is not yet known. All broadcasts are in the Afghan languages of Dari (similar to Persian) and Pashto. Its messages include regular warnings to Taliban forces along the lines that "we will kill you if you don't surrender". (BBC Monitoring)

Following the departure of Taliban forces from Kabul, the radio station has resumed broadcasting as Radio Afghanistan (for the past five years while under Taliban control it had been called Radio Voice of Shari'ah). It is now reported to be using a low power mobile MW transmitter on 1530 kHz at approx 0130-0430 and 1230-1630. The former high power Kabul mediumwave transmitters were destroyed by US bombing on 8 October.

Regional radio stations: The following local stations are known to be broadcasting:

Balkh Radio, Mazar-e Sharif - 1584 kHz, 0230-0430(not Fri), 0430-0730(Fri), 1230-1500v

Radio Herat, Herat - 1530 kHz (tbc), 0230-0400; 838 kHz (tbc) 1130-1300

Radio Nangarhar, Jalalabad - 1 kW transmitter (no further details)

Radio Solh, Jabal os Saraj - independent FM station operated by French Droit de Parole on 96 MHz

Credits: BBC Monitoring, Glenn Hauser's DX Listening Digest. (compiled by Tony Rogers and Dave Kenny)

January 2002: Feature: Around the Dial - Monitoring World Developments in the Afghan Conflict.

The new shortwave station Radio Voice of Afghanistan continues to be heard daily from 1330-1430 UTC on 9950 kHz according to the following schedule: 1330-1345 in Pashto, 1345-1400 in Dari, 1400-1415 in Pashto, 1415-1430 in Dari. The station identification in Pashto is "Da Afghanistan Ghag Radio" and in Dari "Radyo-i Seday-e Afghanistan".

This station, which describes itself as the voice of moderate Afghan political opinion, was set up by Said Jalal Karim, a 32 year old businessman born in Afghanistan and now based in Saudi Arabia. His Said Jalal Foundation funds the operation of the station through the Afghan Broadcasting Company, a non-profit making body. It broadcasts from studios in London via a powerful SW transmitter in Samara, Russia. QSLs have been promised and it has been announced that broadcasts may expand to four hours from January. Contact details: Afghan Broadcasting Company, 21 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2DW or PO Box 5459, Kabul, Afghanistan. Email: afbc9950@hotmail.com, tel: +44 020 7382 9610.

Afghan local radio stations: The following local stations are currently believed to be broadcasting within Afghanistan (details from various press reports; * these times/frequencies subject to confirmation):

Radio Afghanistan (Kabul)* - 1530 kHz - 0130-0430 and 1230-1630

Balkh Radio (Mazar-e Sharif) - 1584 kHz - 0230-0430 (not Fri), 0430-0730 (Fri), 1230-1500v

Konduz Radio (Konduz)* - 1521 kHz - 1230-1330 daily

Radio Herat (Herat)* - 828/1530 kHz - 0230-0400, 1130-1300

Radio Nangarhar (Jalalabad)* 1 kW transmitter (no further details)

Radio Solh (Jabal os Saraj) - 96 MHz - operated by French Droit de Parole organisation.

US Psychological Operations "Information Radio" still broadcasting: The US PsyOps radio station known as Information Radio continues to broadcast daily from 0030-0530 and 1230-1730 on 8700 kHz upper sideband. It has also been confirmed by BBCM on the former Kandahar radio frequency of 864 kHz mediumwave. The MW frequency is believed to be from the "Commando Solo" EC130 aircraft flying above Afghanistan but the location of the SW 8700 kHz transmitter is not yet known.

RFE/RL expands - "Radio Free Afghanistan" may launch in February: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has expended its broadcasts in Azeri, Farsi and Turkmen as part of its contribution to the "war on terrorism". Over the next two months, RFE/RL will have added over twenty hours per day of expanded broadcasts in the Azeri, Farsi, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek languages and expand Arabic broadcasts by Radio Free Iraq. Subject to Congressional approval, Radio Free Afghanistan may resume broadcasting by next February. There are also plans to add broadcasts next year in the Caucasian languages of Avar, Chechen and Circassian.

Credits: BBC Monitoring, Glenn Hauser's DX Listening Digest, Cumbre DX, VOA Communications World. (compiled by Tony Rogers and Dave Kenny)

February 2002: No change since last month in the shortwave scene concerning Afghanistan. Radio Voice of Afghanistan still broadcasts at 1330-1430 on 9950 kHz and the US PsyOps Information Radio continues to be heard on 8700 kHz upper sideband.

March 2002: Radio Free Afghanistan began broadcasting on 30 January in the Pashto and Dari languages. It is part US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty based in Prague. This is actually a revival of the Radio Free Afghanistan which existed as part of RFE/RL Munich, its previous location, from 1985 to 1993. At an opening ceremony in Prague, RFE/RL President, Thomas Dines, said "after three decades on war and misery and a near total blackout on information, we believe that the people in Afghanistan will welcome the chance to hear accurate, objective and comprehensive news about local developments".

An Appropriation Bill, including funds for the new Radio Free Afghanistan, was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush. However, a Bill including authorisation of the new service has not yet been approved by either the House or the Senate due to a hold-up caused by a provision unrelated to Radio Free Afghanistan. Work on new shortwave transmitters in Kuwait, which will be used by Radio Free Afghanistan, cannot proceed until that authorisation is approved. This will probably happen within the next few weeks as there is wide bi-partisan support for the creation of Radio Free Afghanistan. The shortwave transmitters in Kuwait will be at the site of VOA's present mediumwave relay in that country.

The schedule for Radio Free Afghanistan from other transmitter sites until Kuwait is finally built is (note that the first half of each hour is in Pashto, the second half in Dari):

0300-0400 on 7230-Kavalla 15345-Udorn 17725-Udorn.

1300-1400 on 11920-Kavalla 13605-Udorn 15525-Iranawila 15705-Udorn 17725-Biblis.

1700-1800 on 6170-Dhabiyya 9785-Udorn 11920-Udorn.

(VOA Communications World, DXplorer; IBB website)

Identifications: Pashto "Da Azad Afghanistan Radyo"; Dari "Radyo Afghanistani Azad".

Reception reports can be sent to RFE / RL, 1201 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Web Site: <http://www.rferl.org/bd/af/> (Clandestine Radio Watch)

April 2002: The fleet of EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft that were used for US psychological warfare operations in Afghanistan returned to their base in Pennsylvania in late March after almost 6 months of continuous operation. (Radio Netherlands Media Network)

May 2002: Voice of Afghanistan now on 15480 kHz (ex-9950) at 1330-1430. This is the London-based station funded by the Said Jalal Foundation (cf January 2002).

Information Radio is still being reported by DXers on 8700 kHz, but now usb plus carrier. Anker Petersen believes this to be originating from a feeder transmitter at a US military base in Saudi Arabia or the Persian Gulf (or a US base in Central Asia-DK).

8700 kHz usb: US Military Continuing Broadcasts to Afghanistan. 12 April 2002. Since the end of the psychological warfare broadcasts in mid-March, SWLs have continued to report transmissions on 8700 kHz.

There has been speculation as to the location and purpose of these transmissions, but research by RNMN has now confirmed that they are part of the ongoing Operation Enduring Freedom. The current transmissions are described by military sources as humanitarian and informative in nature, and are provided by a mobile transmission system known as Special Operation Media System B (SOMS-B). For security reasons the exact location of the transmitters is not disclosed. In addition to 8700, broadcasts are also heard on 980 MW. According to official US military documents on the Internet, SOMS-B is a tactically deployable ground radio and TV broadcasting system for use by Army Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) forces. SOMS-B provides self-contained ground tactical capabilities that can be rapidly moved to any place in the world by military or commercial means and can operate for extended periods of time with limited support. The \$4.2 million system is operated by the Army's 4th Psychological Operations Group. That unit was responsible for preparing the programmes that were broadcast from the Commando Solo aircraft of the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the USAF. Like the equipment on board the Commando Solo, SOMS-B "allows soldiers to produce high-quality television and AM-FM and SW radio products." In its report of 10 April 2002, the US Agency for International Development said that "Through the International Organisation for Migration, we're distributing over 30,000 radios that allow Afghans to hear special broadcast bulletins concerning food distribution, security, health care and other information relevant to displaced people." Daily reports on Operation Enduring Freedom indicate that broadcasts have been continuous during the past couple of weeks. See [//www.psywarrior.com/4thpog.html](http://www.psywarrior.com/4thpog.html) (Radio Netherlands Media Network via DXplorer)

June 2002: Voice of Afghanistan commenced broadcasts via Moosbrunn on 13 May at 1330-1430 on 17870 kHz (500 kW, 90°). (Wolf Harranth/Wolfgang Bueschel/BC-DX); the existing relay via Moldova on 15480 kHz was due to be discontinued on 15 May, but was still there on 25 May, parallel to 17870 kHz (TR)

The US PsyOps station, Information Radio is now believed to be broadcasting from a US base inside Afghanistan, is still being heard at various times on 8700 kHz usb. Check at 0030-0530 and 1230-1730.

July 2002: Radio Afghanistan from Kabul is now back on shortwave for the Afghan population nationwide! It was active on SW with domestic and external services until about 1995 when the Taliban regime took over and established its replacement "Radio Voice of the Shari'ah" (Radio Voice of the Islamic Law). This station was regularly heard on 7085v until the US bombing of the transmitter on 8th October 2001 at 1609. Foreign donors from the European Union, Japan and USA. have provided studio facilities and advisers in Kabul, satellite transmission equipment and relay facilities in Norway hired by Merlin, UK, and in the Persian Gulf, probably at the Merlin facility at Al Dhabayya, the United Arab Emirates. This station has nothing to do with Information Radio on 8700 KHz and Voice of Afghanistan on 17870 kHz.

During the Afghan tribal council in Kabul, 11-19 June, when more than 1600 tribal leaders elected Mr Hamid Karzai as President, Radio Afghanistan extended its morning broadcasts on 15240 via Dhabayya to sign-off at 0600, and also its evening broadcasts on 18940 via Norway to 1230-1727. (Anker Petersen/Denmark, DSWCI)

Latest schedule for Radio Afghanistan in Pashto/Dari:

0200-0400 on 15240 kHz via Dhabayya, UAE and 1330-1630 on 18940 kHz via Kvitsoy, Norway

Voice of Afghanistan have a website at www.afghanbroadcasting.com. The site mentions that they switched to 17870 kHz as of 13th May, and that they no longer use 15480 or 9950. Thus, this looks like the right website, since there are some stations using the Voice of Afghanistan name that are local stations or Internet-only. The mailing address they give is: Afghan Broadcasting Company, PO Box 36467, London EC2A 2DW, UK. They also have an e-mail address of: afbc2001@hotmail.com (Marie Lamb/Cumbre DX)

August 2002: Radio Afghanistan revised schedule effective 20th June:

0130-0330 on 15240 kHz via Dhabayya, Abu Dhabi and 1330-1630 on 18940 kHz via Kvitsoy, Norway

London-based Voice of Afghanistan has finished its shortwave broadcasts to the country after nine months. The station broadcast news and comment during the transitional phase of the Taliban regime to the new Interim Government. Manned by a ten-strong editorial team of well-known broadcasters and journalists who had left Afghanistan to become refugees in London, the station was originally intended to be on air for just three months. (The Radio Magazine 23rd July via Mike Terry via DXLD). *This was the station most recently on 17870 kHz via Moosbrunn-ed.*

September 2002: Radio Afghanistan has after two months replied and verified by letter a reception report on Norway 18940 kHz. Verification signer was Mr. Mir Amanullah Sharifi, Head of Planning and Foreign Relations.

He confirmed that the transmission on 18940 kHz was over "one of the helper" [transmitters], and also that former 4774 kHz SW transmitter was completely destroyed in the war and now no SW transmitters in Afghanistan. The recent address is: Ministry of Information & Culture, General Presidency of Radio & TV, Planning & Foreign Relations Department, General Managing of Foreign Relations, P.O.Box 544, Kabul. Seventeen stamps issued in 1989 were on the envelope. (Takahito Akabayashi/Japan 10th August via BC-DX)

In an effort to provide the people of war-torn Afghanistan with a co-ordinated, easy-to-find and easy-to-identify 24-hour stream of news, features and music in their native Dari and Pashto languages, the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Radio Free Afghanistan service and the Dari and Pashto Services of the Voice of America (VOA) have created a new joint programme that was heard for the first time on 4th August on both SW and FM in Afghanistan. (RFE/RL Aug 4).

The US radio operation in Afghanistan is currently using 864 kHz (5 kW) and 6100 kHz (1 kW), reports the Charlotte Observer. The station is run by the 8th Psychological Operations Battalion from Kandahar. The studio operates from a truck, concealed under a tent in a US military base. It operates 18 hours a day in Pashtun and Dari. The purpose of the station is to gain popular support for the government of President Hamid Karzai and for the ongoing US hunt for members of al-Qaida and the Taliban. The 8th Psychological Operations Battalion is a subordinate unit of the 4th Psychological Operations Group. The Battalion, stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is the functional broadcasting and loudspeaker component of the Group. It took over the broadcasts in March 2002, when EC-130E aircraft of the 193rd Special Operations Wing used in the Commando Solo II operation headed home. (DXing.info, 19th August)

It was reported at the recent EDXC Conference that the planned VOA relay in Afghanistan would use 801 kHz (Dave Kenny)

October 2002: Information Radio, the US Psyop operation launched during the first days of the American military intervention in Afghanistan last year, continues to broadcast on 8700 kHz in AM mode. Its current schedule appears to be from mid-afternoon until late at night Kabul time. Reception of the station in Kabul is stable but not as strong as had been expected. Reception is actually much better in Islamabad, Pakistan. The medium wave frequency, 864 kHz, also appears to be active, however, monitoring has only detected a carrier wave and no sound. Recent reports that Information Radio also uses 6100 kHz cannot yet be confirmed. Nothing is audible on that frequency in Kabul. (Takuya Hirayama in Afghanistan 15th Sept for CRW)

Information Radio heard on 8700-USB on 17 September at 1705 with continuous Afghan music, weak but steady signal on clear channel. (Mike Barraclough/UK via DXLD)

VOA is currently testing from Tajikistan on 801 kHz, i.e. to Afghanistan rather than in Afghanistan. 801 kHz is not an Afghan frequency, but "belongs" to Tajikistan in the ITU Geneva MW Plan. This frequency was used by a transmitter in Orzu in southern Tajikistan with Moscow Radio 1 until it was closed in the early 1990s. The Geneva Plan limits the power to 200 kW, it is unknown what power was used for Radio 1 or what power will be used after reactivation. (Bernd Trutenau, BC-DX, 10 September)

December 2002: Second US PsyOps radio station on 864 kHz: The US military has launched a second PsyOps radio station. The new station, a senior Afghan official has told Clandestine Watch, is located at the US military base at Kandahar airport and is meant to serve the Pashtun population. Its broadcasts can be heard in Kabul during the local evening mixing under Information Radio's Baghram's signal on 864 kHz. Unlike Information Radio from Baghram, which broadcasts a diverse selection of Pashtun and Dari music, Information Radio from Kandahar has only been heard airing Pashtun music.

US Information Radio from Baghram, meanwhile, still broadcasts on 8700 kHz AM in parallel with 864 kHz mediumwave. According to long-term monitoring, the station no longer broadcasts 24 hours a day. Though its schedule varies, the station usually signs-on at around 0500 Kabul Time, or 0030 UTC both on 864 and 8700 kHz. The broadcast continues until around 2300 Kabul Time or 1830 UTC on 864 kHz, however, usually signs-off around 2000 Kabul Time or 1530 UTC on 864 kHz. Contrary to DX reports that Information Radio is active on 6100 kHz, nothing could be heard on that frequency from either Kabul or Islamabad. American officials were unavailable for comment about Information Radio. (Takuya Hirayama, CRW, Kabul and Tokyo)

A US-Afghanistan Radio Agreement was signed in Washington on 3 October. The agreement calls for the BBG, which supervises all US government-supported international broadcasting, to install two high-power mediumwave transmitters that will have nationwide reach across Afghanistan. In addition, BBG will provide transmitters and equipment for up to five FM operations in Afghanistan. (BBG press release via DXLD)

Radio Afghanistan in Pashto/Dari for B-02:

0130-0230 on 6000 via Dhabbiya, UAE

0230-0327 on 9655 via Dhabbiya, UAE

1330-1627 on 18940 via Kvitsoy, Norway (Observer-Bulgaria)

Voice of America and Radio Free Afghanistan (RFE/RL) schedule for broadcasts to Afghanistan effective since 27th October:

Sites: Brieich, Morocco; Dhabbaya, UAE; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Holzkirchen, Germany; iranawila, Sri Lanka; Lampertheim, Germany; Udon Thani, Thailand; Wertachtal, Germany. (IBB schedule)

2230-2330 RFE Pashto 5835-ir 5910-we 7175-la 12140-ir

2330-0000 RFE Dari 801-du 972-du 5835-ir 5910-we 7175-la 12140-ir

0000-0030 RFE Dari 801-du 972-du 5835-ir 5910-we 7175-br 12140-ir

0030-0130 VOA Pashto 801-du 972-du 12140-ir 15690-ir 17595-ud

0130-0230 VOA Dari 801-du 12140-ir 15690-ir 17595-ud

0230-0330 RFE Pashto 801-du 6010-we 9825-la 12140-ir 15690-ir

0330-0430 RFE Dari 801-du 6010-we 9825-la 12140-ir 15690-ir

0630-0730 RFE Pashto 15690-ir 17595-ud 19010-ir 21690-we

0700-0730 RFE Pashto 17710-ho

0730-0830 RFE Dari 15690-ir 17595-ud 17710-ho 19010-ir 21690-we

0830-0930 RFE Pashto 15690-ir 17595-ud 17710-ho 19010-ir 21690-we

0930-1030 RFE Dari 15690-ir 17595-ud 17710-ho 19010-ir 21690-we

1030-1130 VOA Pashto 15690-ir 17595-ud 19010-ir

1130-1230 VOA Dari 15690-ir 17595-ud 19010-ir

1200-1230 VOA Dari 1143-du

1230-1330 RFE Pashto 801-du 15525-ho 15690-ir 17630-ud 19010-ir 21690-we

1330-1430 RFE Dari 801-du 15525-ho 15690-ir 17630-ud 19010-ir 21690-we

1430-1530 VOA Pashto 801-du 11770-ud 15690-ir 19010-ir

1530-1630 VOA Dari 801-du 11770-ud 15690-ir 19010-ir

1630-1730 RFE Pashto 801-du 6170-dh(from 1700) 11770-ud 12140-we 15120-ho 15690-ir

1730-1800 RFE Dari 801-du 6170-dh 11770-ud 12140-we 15120-ho 15690-ir

1800-1830 RFE Dari 11770-ir

1830-1930 VOA Pashto 801-du

April 2003: Radio Afghanistan schedule effective 30 March (via Merlin) in Pashto/Dari:

0230-0330 on 13680-Dhabayya, UAE (250 kW/45°)

1330-1630 on 18940-Kvitsoy, Norway (500 kW/95°) (via Alokesh Gupta/HCDX)

Information Radio (US PsyOps) has moved to 7000 kHz (ex-8700), as heard by Jari Savolainen in Finland on 5 March up to sign-off at 1832. Confirmed by Dave Kernick (via HCDX)

May 2003: Radio Afghanistan via Merlin-Kvitsoy is scheduled at 1430-1730 (Sundays at 1400-1700) on 18940 kHz (cf April 2003). (Anker Petersen/DSWCI DX Window)

June 2003: Two new 400 kW mediumwave transmitters costing 10.5m dollars have been installed by the BBG and are now operational at a site outside Kabul. One carries the national broadcaster Radio Afghanistan on 1107 kHz, the other carries 24 hours Dari and Persian programmes from VOA/Radio Free Afghanistan on 1296 kHz. (IBB/Radio Netherlands Media Network, 26 May)

Radio Free Afghanistan (RFE/RL and VOA programmes for Afghanistan):

Sites: db-Dushanbe; ir-Iranawila; ka-Kavalla; kb-Kabul; ud-Udon Thani; we-Wertachtal.

2230-2330 RFE/RL Pashto 1296-kb 5945-we 7430-ir 9785-ka

2330-0030 RFE/RL Dari 801-db 1296-kb 972-db 5945-we 7430-ir 9785-ka

0030-0130 VOA Pashto 801-db 972-db 1296-kb 12140-ir 15730-ir 17670-ud

0130-0230 VOA Dari 801-db 1296-kb 12140-ir 15730-ir 17670-ud

0230-0330 RFE/RL Pashto 801-db 1296-kb 12140-we 15730-ir 17670-ir

0330-0430	RFE/RL	Dari	801-db 1296-kb 12140-we 15730-ir 17670-ir
0530-0630	VOA	Dari	1296-kb 17710-ir 21550-ir
0630-0730	RFE/RL	Pashto	1296-kb 13710-ud 15690-we 19010-ir
0730-0830	RFE/RL	Dari	1296-kb 13710-ud 15690-we 19010-ir
0830-0930	RFE/RL	Pashto	1296-kb 15690-we 17685-ud 19010-ir
0930-1030	RFE/RL	Dari	1296-kb 15690-we 17685-ud 19010-ir
1030-1130	VOA	Pashto	1296-kb 17685-ud 19010-ir 21680-ka
1130-1230	VOA	Dari	1143-db(from 1200) 1296-kb 17685-ud 19010-ir 21680-ka
1230-1300	RFE/RL	Pashto	801-db 1296-kb 15690-we 17685-ud 19010-ir
1330-1430	RFE/RL	Dari	801-db 1296-kb 15690-we 17685-ud 19010-ir
1430-1530	VOA	Pashto	801-db 1296-kb 7235-ud 12140-ir 15690-ir
1530-1630	VOA	Dari	801-db 1296-kb 7235-ud 12140-ir 15690-ir
1630-1730	RFE/RL	Pashto	801-db 1296-kb 9845-ud 12140-ir 15690-we
1730-1830	RFE/RL	Dari	801-db 1296-kb 9845-ud 12140-ir 15690-we
1830-1930	VOA	Pashto	801-db 1296-kb

July 2003: A new 400 kW transmitter of Radio Afghanistan has started experimental broadcasts from 0530 (0100 UTC) until 2330 (1930 UTC) on 1107 kHz. (Radio Afghanistan 2 June via BBC Monitoring)

September 2003: The US-based Afghanistan Peace Association (APA) has a weekly airing via its APA Radio Amani service at 1630-1730 on Fridays on 15615 kHz in Dari and Pashto. APA radio discusses issues such as peace, democracy, human rights and security, along with cultural and traditional topics. (APA mailing list 9 August & Bernd Trutenau/Lithuania via DXplorer); *apparently via a transmitter at Armavir-Krasnodar-ed.*

October 2003: Reception of the PsyOps transmissions ("Information Radio") in Dari and Pashto is currently reported on 9000 kHz by the IBB RMS system (<http://monitor.ibb.gov/rms>). The transmissions are scheduled to be on the air 24 hours-a-day. (Bernd Trutenau/Lithuania via DXplorer 11 September)

Radio Afghanistan (18940) has not been relayed by Merlin via Kvitsoy, Norway since June 2003 (Anker Petersen/Denmark via DSWCI DX Window, 10 September)

November 2003: Afghanistan Peace - Radio Amani is scheduled from 26 October on Fridays only at 1630-1730 on 15615 kHz via Armavir. (Merlin schedule via Andreas Volk/ADDX)

The station on 9000 kHz (*cf October 2003*), formerly known as Information Radio, was observed on 17 September identifying as Peace Radio (Radyo-e-Soleh in Dari). (Dave Kernick via Jari Savolainen/HCDX)

December 2003: A new 100 kW shortwave transmitter is being constructed in Afghanistan, financed from Indian aid. The project should be completed by March 2004 (via Alan Pennington)

April 2004: Afghan authorities have invited applications to supply and install a 100 kW shortwave transmitter in Kabul. (via DXLD); we may have to wait for some time before this one is on the air. (Jari Savolainen/HCDX)

May 2004: The 400 kW BBG/IBB relay transmitter in Kabul on 1296 kHz for Radio Free Afghanistan now carries a special programme in English at 1930-2330 since the start of the A-04 season. (IBB 28 March)

Radio Amani (broadcasting to Afghanistan) schedule for A-04: 1630-1730 Fridays only in Pashto and Dari on 7350 kHz. (BBC Monitoring 13 April via DXLD)

August 2004: Internews Radio ("Salaam Watandar") is a new service to Afghanistan in Pashto and Dari via Merlin Communications. Internews is an international non-profit organization that supports open media worldwide. The schedule is: 0130-0300 on 11795 via Dhabbaya, UAE (250 kW/045°) and 1330-1500 on 17700 via Rampisham, UK (500 kW/085°). (Observer-Bulgaria 13 July)

October 2004: Internews Radio/Salaam Watandar in Pashto and Dari: 1330-1500 now on new 15195 kHz via Rampisham, 500 kW/085 degrees, ex 17700. (Observer-Bulgaria, 14 September)

According to information from the producers, the radio show "Salaam Watandar" will probably no longer be carried on SW from 15 October. The show is produced by Internews in Kabul and is primarily aired via satellite for rebroadcasting by local Afghan radio stations. Internews will make a decision in the next time whether or not to continue with the SW relays beyond the October date. (Bernd Trutenau 19 September via DXplorer)

November 2004: A station calling itself Radio Peace has been observed on shortwave, marking a new phase in U.S. psychological warfare to catch Osama bin Laden. Unlike previous PsyOps operations relying on weak airborne and naval transmitters, and identifying as Information Radio, the station has adopted a new name and is now using high-power transmitters in the United Kingdom, easily covering the entire Central Asia with a clear signal. Radio Peace broadcasts popular music from its target region, inserting pre-recorded messages urging listeners to report the whereabouts of the remaining al-Qaida and Taliban leaders. The station is reportedly broadcasting at least in Dari (Persian) and Urdu.

According to German DXer Wolfgang Bueschel, who first reported Radio Peace on DXplorer on 21 October, the station broadcasts as follows:

0200-0500 on 11810 via Rampisham	1300-1500 on 17720 via Woofferton
0700-1200 on 21620 via Rampisham	1500-1630 on 17710 via Woofferton
1200-1300 on 17555 via Woofferton	

The schedule may however change soon, as international broadcasters are adopting new frequencies for the final quarter of the year. Radio Peace is being transmitted from Rampisham and Woofferton in the UK.

Very recently there have been news reports in the United States quoting John Lehman, a member of the 9-11 commission, saying that the exact location of Osama bin Laden is known, but that U.S. troops can't get to him yet. Previously Secretary of State Colin Powell has said that the al-Qaida leader was alive and operating in the western part of Pakistan. Lehman goes further by saying that bin Laden is in South Waziristan in the Baluchistan Mountains. Radio Peace has been heard offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of Osama bin Laden. (DXing.info, 22 October)

The producers have confirmed that Internews Radio/Salaam Watandar will continue after 15 October [cf last month's DX News-ed]. They expect the service to run throughout the winter, but at this stage the transmissions are funded only for another month. (Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, 14 October, via DXLD)

Internews Radio/Salaam Watandar for B-04: 0130-0300 on 7230 kHz via Dhabbaya and 1330-1500 on 17720 kHz via Rampisham.

December 2004: Radio Khost has been heard on 1602 kHz in Scandinavia. This station was previously reported on 1200 or 1300 kHz. (DXing.info, 25 November, via DXLD)

VT Communications has been awarded a contract to feed via satellite a network of FM and AM affiliate stations being built at 35 locations broadcasting the programming of Salaam Watandar. Internews Network has been charged with developing indigenous Afghan media with a focus on radio as part of a USAID initiative. VTC supplied and installed a VSAT uplink to feed programming onto the Europe *Star satellite. Programming is downlinked at VTC's Woofferton transmitting station in Shropshire, before fed to its Central London Control Room. VTC distribute programming to its transmission sites for shortwave coverage and to Eutelsat's Hotbird 6 satellite to feed the FM and AM rebroadcast transmitters in Afghanistan. The flexibility provided by passing through the control room allows programming to be backed up or provided from other locations in Afghanistan or the world. The solution ensures that engineers are on hand 24 hours per day to ensure the smooth transmission of this very important community voice. (Radio Newsletter via Ray Browell, HCDX, 26 November)

Internews/Salaam Watandar via VT Communications for B-04:

0130-0300 on 7230-Dhabbaya UAE in Dari/Pashto	
1330-1500 on 17720-Rampisham UK in Dari/Pashto	(Observer-Bulgaria, 5 November)

Radio Solh/Radio Peace via VT Communications (Rampisham UK) for B-04:

0200-0500 on 11810 in Dari/Pashto/Urdu/Music	
0700-1300 on 21620 in Dari/Pashto/Urdu/Music	
1300-1500 on 15265 in Dari/Pashto/Music	
1500-1630 on 17710 in Dari/Pashto/Music	(Observer-Bulgaria, 5 November)

March 2005: New time and frequency for Internews/Salaam Watandar in Dari/Pashto: now 1300-1430 on 13650 via Rampisham 500 kW / 095 deg (ex 1330-1500 on 17720). (R Bulgaria Observer, Ivo Ivanov and Angel Datzinov, via BC-DX 25 January)

May 2005: Internews/Salaam Watandar schedule for A-05 via VT Communications:
0230-0400 on 15240 kHz via Samara, Russia 250 kW in Dari/Pashto
1300-1430 on 15500 kHz via Rampisham, UK 500 kW in Dari/Pashto (Observer via BC-DX)

Radio Solh/Radio Peace schedule for A-05 via VT Communications:
1200-1800 on 17700 kHz via Rampisham, UK 500 kW in Dari/Pashto (Observer via BC-DX)

July 2005: From Salaam Watandar comes this e-mail: "I'm afraid we're no longer responding to QSL requests: we just don't have the resources or time. thanks for your interest and sorry, David Trilling" (Ian Cattermole, NZ, June NZ DX Times via DXLD)

October 2005: Radio Afghanistan back on shortwave soon. The Indo-Asian News service quotes Abdul Rehman Panjshiri, director of international relations at Afghan Radio and TV, as saying that "The 100 kW shortwave transmitter with seven antennas being installed by India at Yakatoot in Kabul is being completed this month. It will enable Kabul Radio programmes to be heard in South East Asia, South Asia, Africa and Europe. The people in remote areas in Afghanistan who remain cut off during the harsh winter months will now be able to follow the happenings in Kabul and other areas of the country through the programmes beamed on this shortwave transmitter." (Media Network Weblog 13 September)

November 2005: Peace Radio (presumed), Baghram, heard recently on 9365 kHz at 0900-1500, a bit better around 1400. No clear ID, but I cannot think of anything else. I managed to check that 9365 was not // with 17700 "sister" station (Mauno Ritola, Finland, 30 September, DSWCI DX Window 9 October via DXLD); This is the US PsyOps station which used to be on 8700 kHz - its currently the only SW broadcast station in Afghanistan, until Radio Afghanistan gets its new 100 kW SW transmitter operational. (Dave Kenny/Glenn Hauser DX Listening Digest, 16 October)

December 2005: Revised B05 schedule for Radio Solh (US PsyOps broadcast to Afghanistan): 0200-1200 on 11675 (Dhabbaya-UAE), 1200-1500 on 15265 (Rampisham-UK), 1500-1800 on 9875 (Rampisham-UK).

February 2006: Radio Afghanistan: Well-informed sources tell Cumbre DX that the station has installed its 100 kW shortwave transmitter, but that there has been a delay in getting the unit hooked up to the local power grid (Hans Johnson, Cumbre DX via WDXC Contact via DXLD)

200 kW mediumwave transmitter planned: The US Broadcasting Board of Governors says it intends to negotiate a non-competitive contract with Harris Corporation for the fabrication and installation of a mediumwave broadcasting system at a remote location in Afghanistan. It is expected that a 200 kW containerised system at 621 kHz will be ordered. The on-air schedule is approximately 15 September 2006. The Radio TV Afghanistan staff at the Pol-e Charkhi transmitting station has been thoroughly trained in the operation of the Harris DX MW transmitters and have successfully operated two Harris 400DX MW transmitters for over two years. In addition, the RTVA staff has also installed and operated ten Harris FM transmitter systems throughout the country. It is particularly noteworthy that the urgent establishment of a MW broadcasting capability in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan is a top US government priority. (Radio Netherlands Media Network(; WRTH 2006 shows there is already a 7 kW station on 621 kHz in Gardex, Afghanistan; will this replace that? (Glenn Hauser, DXLD)

Both the 400 kW MW transmitters - Radio Afghanistan on 1107 kHz and IBB on 1296 kHz - are strong enough to put a daytime groundwave signal into Islamabad. Radio Afghanistan now also remains on 1107 kHz during the evening, rather than switching to 1278 kHz at 1400 as was once the case. (Chris Greenway, based on a visit to Islamabad, Pakistan)

9325, 9345 and 9365 were checked regularly for the reported US PsyOps transmissions, but none were heard. (Chris Greenway, Islamabad)

May 2006: Radio Afghanistan tells Cumbre DX that their new 100 kW transmitter will carry a foreign service only. It won't be a relay of the domestic service. (Hans Johnson, 10 March, Cumbre DX via Listener's Notebook, April NASWA Journal via DXLD)

June 2006: US PsyOps Radio Solh (R Peace) to Afghanistan in Dari/Pashto: 0200-0900 on 11665 kHz via Dhabbaya, 0900-1200 on 11675 kHz via Dhabbaya, 1200-1800 on 17700 kHz via Rampisham. (DX Mix)

July 2006: US forces and local authorities in Qalat launched a new local station called 936 AM on 20 April. The station, sponsored by the US Commander's Emergency Relief Program, cost approximately \$200,000 and took six months to complete. At the inauguration ceremony, 200 handheld receivers were given to local people. AM 936 broadcasts include talk and music programming. News about the station was first published by the US Department of Defense on 15 May, and quoted by Kevin Redding on the ABDX mailing list. (DXing.info)

September 2006: All India Radio's 2005-2006 Annual Report says the 100 kW shortwave transmitter project in Afghanistan is in the final stages of completion. (Glenn Hauser, DXLD)

November 2006: Radio Peace 9345 kHz: Jose Jacobs in India reports hearing an Afghan station on 9345 kHz at 0300-1400 with continuous songs, no announcements. Also heard before 0630 followed by news. (Jose Jacob in Himalayas via wwdxc BC-DX 6 Oct); Jari Savolainen in Finland say that "Radio Peace [from Baghram] on 9345 kHz is rather regular there in Finland, say after 1200 UTC when the channel is clear. North Korea is not much a problem at that time, usually much weaker than Radio Peace. When Radio Netherlands signs on via Tashkent, it usually overrides Radio Peace, but not always. Later Israel is more a problem. As reported, Radio Peace has long periods of non-stop Afghan music. At times they have news on the half-hour. (Jari Savolainen, DXLD, 9 October)

December 2006: B-06 schedule for Radio Sohl: 0200-1200 on 11675-UAE, 1200-1500 on 15265-Rampisham, 1500-1800 on 9875-Rampisham. (Tony Rogers)

January 2007: IBB on 1296 kHz (Pol-e-Charhki 400 kW) as per VOA & RFE/RL websites:

0030-0130 VOA - Pashto	1500-1530 R Ashna - Dari	1800-1830 R Ashna - Dari
0130-0230 R Ashna - Dari	1530-1630 VOA - Pashto	1830-1930 VOA - Pashto
0230-1430 R Azadi - Pashto/Dari	1630-1730 R Ashna - Dari	1930-2030 R Ashna - Dari
1430-1500 VOA - Pashto	1730-1800 VOA - Pashto	2030-0030 VOA - English

Radio Ashna is VOA's Dari service, whilst Radio Azadi is better known as RFE/RL's Radio Free Afghanistan service with programming in Pashto and Dari.

February 2007: The US PsyOps station Radio Solh (Radio Peace) has been tentatively heard on 6700 and 6800 kHz during January by Jari Savolainen in Finland. Jari reports that reception peaks around 1430-1530 on Finland. This appears to be the same station previously heard on 9345 from Baghram, Afghanistan. It is believed that there are at least three transmitter sites for US PsyOps Radio Peace transmissions on shortwave from Afghanistan at Baghram, Kandahar and Orgun. These usually operate in the 9300 kHz range. (Jari Savolainen, Finland, DXLD); *not to be confused with the Radio Solh shortwave relays via VT Communications-ed*

March 2007: Jari Savolainen in Finland reports hearing two stations with different programming on 6700 kHz around 1600 UTC on 7 and 8 February. This frequency is believed to be used by US PsyOps stations from Baghram Airbase and possibly other sites in Afghanistan. Similar to broadcasts previously heard on 9345 kHz. (Jari Savolainen, DXLD)

April 2007: RTA Radio Afghanistan has been registered for A-07 at 2200-1500 on 6130 kHz and 0100-1800 on 7145 kHz. Power is 50 kW. (Bernhard Weiskopf BC-DX); *has been planned for some time. Perhaps due to start testing soon (DK)*

May 2007: Radio Solh observed on new 17700 kHz [via Rampisham-ed] from around 1400 tune-in to close at 1600 UTC (ex-15265). (Edwin Southwell)

June 2007: IBB relay - Pol-e Charkhi (Kabul) on 1296 kHz for A-07

1430-1500 VOA Pashto	1830-1930 VOA Pashto
1500-1530 R Ashna Dari	1930-2000 R Ashna Dari
1530-1630 VOA Pashto	2030-0030 VOA English
1630-1730 R Ashna Dari	0030-0130 VOA Pashto
1730-1800 VOA Pashto	0130-0230 R Ashna Dari
1800-1830 R Ashna Dari	(schedule/VOA website)

Excerpt from BBG Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request: "To improve broadcasting to the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the BBG is deploying a 200 kW medium wave system near Khost, Afghanistan. A contract was awarded for the transmitter system in FY 2006, and an on-air date for broadcasts to this border region is projected for the end of the fourth quarter of FY 2007. (via Bernd Trutenau, 20 May, dxldyg)

I have been regularly monitoring Radio Solh around 6700 kHz since they were reported in January on this frequency by Finnish DXers. The station is heard almost daily from our late afternoon into the evening. When they first appeared they were on 6700.006 kHz but more recently on 6699.998 kHz. Contrary to other observers I have never observed different programmes on the two sidebands. The station is using AM and not DSB. In Dari the call sounds like "Radio Solhe Afghan". Sometimes Radio Solh is heavily disturbed by unlicensed Greek pirates who are using 6700 kHz, LSB, for chatting in a very rude manner. Does anyone by 100% know the location of Radio Solh? (Stig Adolfsson, Vallentuna, Sweden, via Thomas Nilsson, SWB, 11 May, DXLD); *reportedly transmits from the US airbase at Baghram, Afghanistan-ed.*

A-07 schedule for Radio Solh (Radio Peace) in Dari/Pashto via VT Communications relays:
0200-0900 on 11665-Dhabbaya; 0900-1200 on 11675-Dhabbaya; 1200-1800 on 17700-Rampisham

November 2007: IBB relay on 1296 kHz (Kabul 400 kW) for B-07:
0030-0230 VOA Radio Ashna in Pashto/Dari 1430-2030 VOA Radio Ashna in Pashto/Dari
0230-1430 RFE/RL Afghan in Pashto/Dari 2030-0030 VOA English

January 2008: B-07 schedule for US PsyOps Radio Solh (Radio Peace) in Dari/Pashto:
0200-1200 on 11675-Dhabbaya; 1200-1500 on 15265-Rampisham; 1500-1800 on 9875-Rampisham

February 2008: Radio Solh [US PsyOps], 15265 kHz via UK, enters another month and another year still playing exactly the same music every day at the same time, including the sticking CD at 1346-1349+ as reconfirmed 10 Jan. The final tune before 1500 sign-off is growing on me. (Glenn Hauser, Oklahoma, DXLD)

May 2008: Radio Solh [US PsyOps] was observed from 1300-1400 UTC on 6700 kHz from two separate transmitters within Afghanistan. Programming was different from both locations causing mutual interference. Programming was bilingual in Dari and Pashto from both stations. Around 1400 UTC the signal faded out (Aslam Javaid-Lahore, Pakistan, DXLD, 31 March)

A third Radio Sohl [also US PsyOps] is carried via VT Communications during A08 as follows:
0600-1200 on 11675 (Al Dhabaya 250 kW); 1200-1700 on 17700 (Rampisham 500 kW)

June 2008: IBB relay on 1296 kHz (Pol-e Charkhi 400 kW) for A-08:
0030-0130 R Ashna Pashto 1530-1630 R Ashna Pashto 1830-1930 R Ashna Pashto
0130-0230 R Ashna Dari 1630-1730 R Ashna Dari 1930-2000 R Ashna Dari
1430-1500 R Ashna Pashto 1730-1800 R Ashna Pashto 2030-0030 R Ashna English
1500-1530 R Ashna Dari 1800-1830 R Ashna Dari (schedule/VOA website)

November 2008: The B-08 schedule for US PsyOps Radio Sohl ("Peace Radio") looks to be
0300-1200 11675-Dhabbaya 1200-1500 13830-Rampisham 1500-1800 9875-Rampisham

This station broadcasts a lot of lively Afghan music with announcements in Dari/Pashto. Glenn Hauser recently reported hearing some different music on the station, which has been carrying the same songs for many moths. (Schedule based on B-07 & monitoring checks for B-08)

December 2008: B-08 schedule for Radio Sohl [US PsyOps] broadcasts to Afghanistan:
0200-0300 on 5925-Dhabbaya; 0300-1200 on 11675-Dhabbaya; 1200-1500 on 13830-Rampisham;
1500-1800 on 9875-Rampisham. (Dragan Lekic, dxld yg)

January 2009: Radio Zabol, Zabol Province, on 936 kHz heard at 1220 on 6 December 2008 with interview. Fair to good signal, supposedly 10 kW. About 350-360 km to the southwest of me. Thanks to Mauno Ritola for tip and prompting! (Al Muick, Kabul, Afghanistan, HCDX, DXLD)

March 2009: Radio Solh, the US PsyOps station that has broadcast to Afghanistan on SW for several years appears to have ceased. Its final transmission appears to have been on 23 January 2009. Radio Solh broadcast via VT Communications transmitters in Rampisham and Abu Dhabi. It carried lively Afghan music interspersed with messages in Dari/Pashto. (various)

And Radio Solh transmitters on 6700 kHz in Afghanistan itself have not been heard since at least the beginning of 2009. (Jari Savolainen, Finland via DXLD)

Radio Solh closed on Friday 23 January. And the next working day (in the US), Monday 26 January, VOA expanded its overnight service to Afghanistan and Pakistan. There may not be an exact correlation in terms of costs, but perhaps the idea of ending one project and shifting the funds to another one might have appealed to a tidy bureaucratic mind. (Chris Greenway, DXLD)

April 2009: RTA Radio Badghis, Qalay-e-Naw, on 1503 kHz (6 kW) and Radio Paktin Voice, the RTA Paktika provincial station in Barmal district, on 1386 kHz (5 kW) are both now on air. (WRTH Domestic Update 19 February 2009 via DXLD)

June 2010: VOA Deewa Radio in Pashto heard on 621 kHz on 2 May 2010 during check at around 1750 UTC; this is via the new MW transmitter site in Afghanistan located in Tani-Khost. A 200 kW Harris transmitter was installed recently. Schedule: 0100-0400 & 1300-1900 UTC on 621 kHz in Pashto. (Alokesh Gupta, New Delhi, 5 May, DX-Asia yg via DXLD)

October 2010: Radio Mashaal expanded its programming on 621 kHz (transmitter site: Khost, 200 kW-ed) from six to nine hours on 15 September 2010 in response to growing number of extremist-controlled radio stations in the region and is now on air between 0400-1300 UTC. (RFE/RL via RNW Media Network)

November 2010: Sadaye Zindagi (Voice of Life) is a Christian broadcast to Afghanistan with web sites at www.afghanradio.org or www.sadayezindagi.com. Transmissions via Media Broadcast commenced on 1 October 2010. Broadcasts are registered under Bible Voice Broadcasting Network BVBN. (DX Mix via BC-DX)

B-10 schedule for Radio Sadaye Zindagi in Dari to Afghanistan on SW:
Daily 0230-0330 on 7410-Wertachtal
Mon-Fri 1600-1630 on 11895-Wertachtal

Radio Sadaye Zindagi (Sound of Life) is a Christian radio programme in Dari that added a new shortwave broadcast to Afghanistan on 1 October 2010, but apparently they have an existing broadcast on mediumwave. Their website says "You can also listen to Radio Sadaye Zindagi on Medium Wave at 1251 kHz Thursdays to Monday at 8:00 pm". (original report via Patrick Robic, A-DX via BC-DX); site for 1251 kHz not specified but the time/days of this broadcast fits nicely into the schedule for HCJB in Dari via Dushanbe on 1251 kHz at 1530-1545 UTC Thursday through Monday-DK.

December 2010: New frequency for Radio Sadaye Zindagi to Afghanistan in Dari from 12 November: 1600-1630 on 11955-Wertachtal (ex-11895). (DX Mix via BC-DX)

January 2011: Frequency change of Radio Sadaye Zindagi (Voce of Light) to Afghanistan in Dari from 21 December: 1600-1630 on 9445-Wertachtal (ex 11830/11955/11895). (DX Mix)

February 2011: Radio Sadaye Zindagi confirmed my reception in a personal e-mail from Mark Anderson, Pamir Productions after a couple of hours. Reports via www.afghanradio.org or to info@afghanradio.org. (Bjoern Fransson- BC-DX TopNews 12 Jan); the schedule is now: 0200-0315 on 6125 via Dhabbaya-UAE and 1500-1530 on 9400 via Gavar-Armenia. (*Sadaye Zindagi is a Christian broadcast to Afghanistan in Dari/Pashto. It seems to be linked to FEBA and/or Bible Voice Broadcasting. ed*)

September 2011: Radio Afghanistan external service back on SW: Minister of Information and Culture Dr Sayed Makhdoom Raheen inaugurated the foreign service of Radio Afghanistan yesterday [30 July]. This service will initially air programmes in English and Urdu daily from 8:00 to 9:00 pm [1530-1630 UTC]. Dr Raheen said that the service has been revived through the efforts of the director general and employees, and in the first place it will air English and Urdu programmes, followed by Arabic and Russian programmes and subsequently French and German programmes. According to Dr Raheen, revival of this service will assist in recognition of Afghanistan to its outside friends and will inform them about the country's events. Abdul Ghani

Mudaqaq head of the publications department of Radio Afghanistan said that the service will cover Asia, Africa and Europe. (Bahktar News Agency) Thanks to Mikhail Timofeyev in St Petersburg, Russia who reports English at 1530 UTC on 6100 kHz, followed by Urdu at 1600, so the schedule is confirmed as 1530-1600 English and 1600-1630 Urdu. (Media Network)

There has been no official SW service from Afghanistan since October 2001, at that time the national broadcaster was the Taliban-run Radio Voice of Shari'ah (formerly Radio Afghanistan) which could be heard on 7085v kHz. I was listening to the station's English service on the afternoon of 8 October 2001 when, at 1610 UTC, it suddenly went silent: the very moment when the Kabul transmitter site was destroyed in a US bombing raid. The new transmitter is being reported on 6102 kHz by DXers in Asia, Russia and Central Europe but is difficult to hear in the UK at the moment. It should start to propagate better here by September with the onset of autumnal conditions. The transmitter is a 100 kW Thomson at Yakatut to the east of Kabul, it was financed by India. (dk)

November 2011: IBB relay on 621 kHz (Tani-Khost 200 kW): 0100-0400 VOA Deewa Radio in Pashto, 0400-1300 RFE/RL Radio Mashaal in Pashto, 1300-1900 VOA Deewa Radio in Pashto.

IBB relay on 1296 kHz (Pol-e-Charkhi, Kabul 400 kW): 0030-0230 VOA Radio Ashna in Pashto/Dari, 0230-1430 RFE/RL Radio Azadi (Radio Free Afghanistan) in Pashto/Dari, 1430-2030 VOA Radio Ashna in Pashto/Dari, 2030-0030 VOA in English.

December 2011: Just as we are going to press on 27 November Radio Afghanistan has been heard on new 7200 kHz (ex 6102) for its daily broadcast at 1530-1600 in English and 1600-1630 in Urdu. (Ham Intruder list via Mauno Ritola/WRTH via Mike Barraclough)

Radio Afghanistan's external service was not heard on shortwave from April 2012.

October 2012: Radio Afghanistan's external service has not been heard on SW for some time, however it transpires that the Radio Afghanistan staff are still producing programs each day (now including 30 minutes daily in Arabic and Russian, in addition to the English and Urdu that we DXers already knew about), even though it appears that the SW transmitter has not worked for several months. The official line from Radio Afghanistan management to outsiders is that the station is still on the air for two hours a day "on 6100 (sic), from a 400 (sic) kW transmitter". (World of Radio DXLD 29 August - source not stated)

July 2013: Radio Salam Watandar ("Hello Countrymen") in Pashto to Afghanistan from 11 June (via Bulgaria):
0230-0400 on 11545-bu
1330-1500 on 15615-bu

Often observed with an empty carrier or not broadcast on both frequencies. (DX Mix/BC-DX)

Salan Watandar is an Afghan FM station which has also broadcast on SW in the past.

Radio Salam Watandar via Bulgaria was heard on 15615 kHz with fair signal, although much noise, on 23 June from 1428 tune-in. Some local music and western pop earlier, followed by YL & OM talk. Signal was lost in the noise by 1450. (Alan Roe)

August 2013: India to help Afghan broadcaster Prasar Bharati will assist the Afghan government broadcaster Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA) to start a news channel in the war-ravaged country. Excerpts: RTA Director General Zarin Anzor and A R Panjshiri, Afghanistan's head of International Relations met Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar and also sought help in repair and maintenance of their existing transmission facilities such as uplink, short wave transmitter and TV network. The RTA has a network of 24 TV transmitter with downlink facilities, one 100 kw short wave transmitter with 7 antennae catering service to its neighbouring countries and one uplink station in Kabul providing connectivity. (Alokesh Gupta, 27 August 2013, dx_sasia yg via DXLD) *Radio Afghanistan's SW transmitter was originally installed by India but has not been working for about two years now; hopefully it will be reactivated as part of this assistance. Ed*

October 2016: On 26 October 2016, Dave Kernick (owner of Interval Signals Online) reported by the DX Listening Digest Yahoo Group that the Radio Afghanistan external service in English had been observed again on 6100 kHz at 1530 UTC with very poor reception via a WebSDR remote receiver in Israel. It had disappeared from there when rechecked again at 1545; it is unclear if it had faded out or the transmitter had

gone off air. Initially, Dave monitored the service via the live stream of Radio Kabul, Radio Afghanistan's local service for the capital, on the Radio Television Afghanistan website (<http://rta.org.af>) when it announced 6100 kHz and Radio Kabul's 93.0 MHz frequency. An Urdu broadcast followed at 1600, announcing mediumwave and FM frequencies, but the stream crashed at 1615 and nothing was heard on 6100 kHz, so not sure when the programme finished. Recording (from the web stream) of the opening announcements of the English & Urdu programmes are on the Interval Signals Online website at www.intervalsignals.net. (Dave Kernick/DXLD)

November 2016: Radio Afghanistan external service has been heard back on 6100 kHz for the first time in several years. First reported on 26 October by David Kernick of Intervalsignals Online who spotted a reference to shortwave while listening to the online stream of Radio Kabul 93.5 at <http://rta.org.af> (via DXLD). David confirmed that 6100 was in parallel with Radio Afghanistan's web stream. 6100 has been widely reported since with the schedule: English 1530-1600, Urdu 1600-1630 UTC. Very weak signal in Europe but it is audible some days.

October 2017: Radio Afghanistan's external service was observed on 2 October 2017 on 6100 kHz, in English at 1530 UTC then into Urdu at 1600. The transmitter went off promptly after sign-off at 1630 but the external service continued on their web stream with Arabic at 1630 then Russian at 1705, signing-off for the night with a short announcement in Dari at 1735. I wonder if the Arabic and Russian programmes are carried on another shortwave frequency? The above was monitored via a web SDR in Oman, from where the Radio Afghanistan main domestic service can be heard very easily on their high-powered mediumwave transmitter on 1107 kHz. (David Kernick, Interval Signals Online, via DXLD YG, 2 October 2017)

March 2018: Dave Kernick commented on 10 March 2018 (via DXLD): "New(ish) on mediumwave is Radio Talwasa, based in Sharana, the capital of Afghanistan's Paktika province (thanks to Indian DXer Ck Raman for alerting us to this via the WRTH Facebook group). It broadcasts on 945 kHz & 87.9 MHz FM at 06:00 am to 10:00 pm local time [0130-1730 UTC] according to their website at <http://talwasa.com> & <http://talwasa.af>, although I've observed them signing-on at 1130 UTC on a Friday (9 March). The website is mainly in Pashto but also has an informative About Us page, and hosts a live stereo audio stream".

More content will be added in future.

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