

Barry Goldwater's  
MARS station operation  
AFA7UGA  
Phoenix, Arizona  
1967-1977

A presentation for the  
Hot Springs Village ARC  
Frank Fahrlander, N7FF  
(updated by Brian, W9HLQ, 2019)

**Those who made it happen:**

**Barry Goldwater  
AFA7UGA**

**Herman Middleton  
AF7TPG**

**Bill Franklin  
AF7DOZ**

**Elmer Olsen  
AFA7GPZ**

**Bill Eccles  
AFA7MJC**

**Ray Baker  
AFA7CCI**

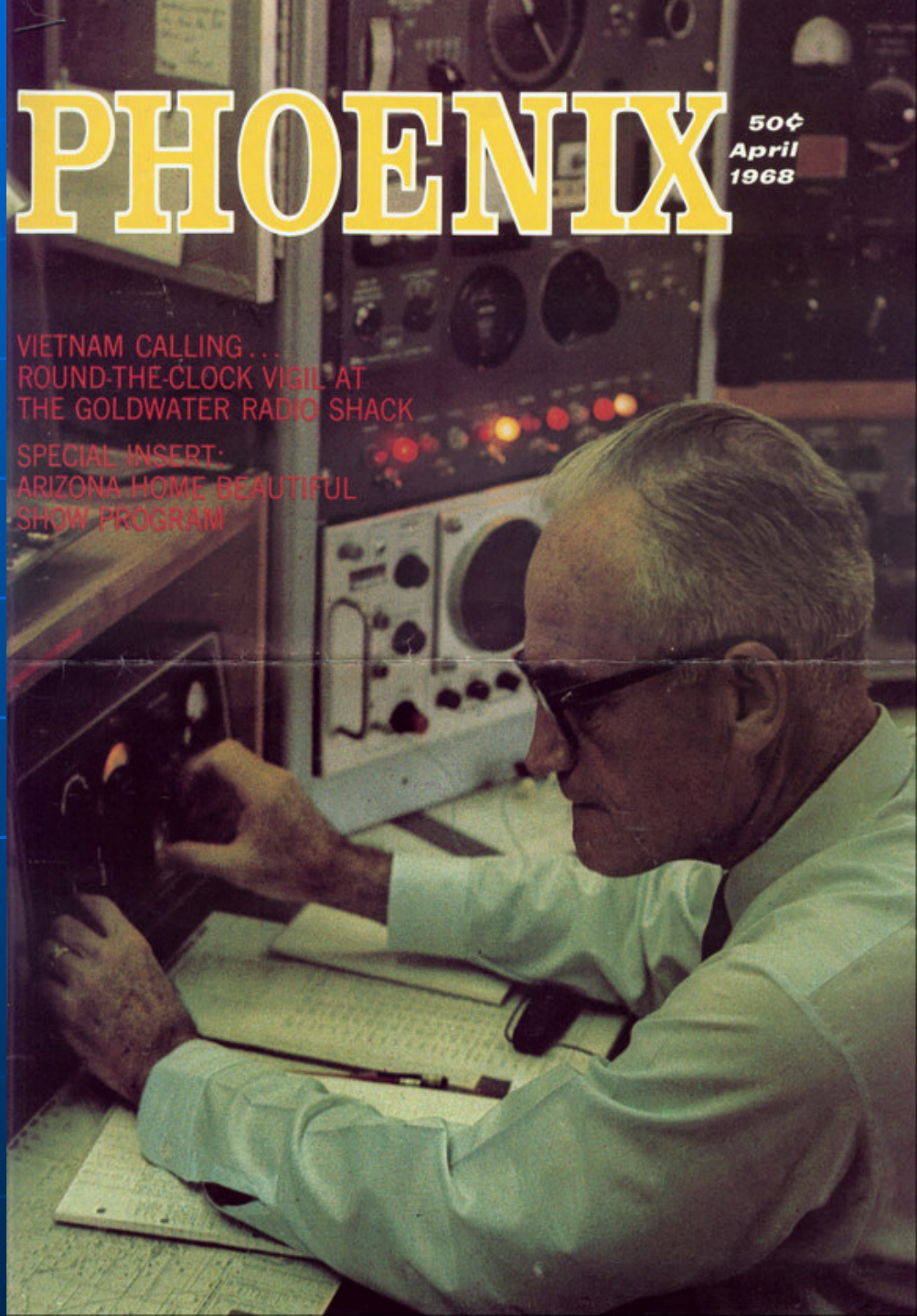
**Many talented and dedicated  
Mountain Bell telephone  
operators**

# PHOENIX

50¢  
April  
1968

VIETNAM CALLING...  
ROUND-THE-CLOCK VIGIL AT  
THE GOLDWATER RADIO SHACK

SPECIAL INSERT:  
ARIZONA HOME BEAUTIFUL  
SHOW PROGRAM



# Original K7UGA yagi array

- 6 element 10 M
- 3 element 40 M
- 5 element 20 M
- 5 element 15 M

Hy-Gain RP-75H  
rotating pole



# Why such an elaborate station?

In support of the Viet Nam War 1960 thru 1975

Amateur radio operators volunteered to make phone patches between US and war theater

They used their own gear and managed the long distance calls themselves

Most often they called collect - (LD calls were expensive)

# The War - some background

Classic North vs South conflict

North Vietnam and South Vietnam were engaged in a long confrontation.

The French were assisting the South with a lot of aid from the US.

# The War - a map

Operations included a wide area:

South Viet Nam  
Laos  
Cambodia  
Thailand  
North Viet Nam?



# Hy-Gain RP-75H rotating pole

- 77' above ground; 3-25' sections
- Cold rolled steel
  - 13" diameter x 0.25" thick at bottom
  - 3" diameter x 0.12" thick at top
  - 10' base
- HyGain RBX-5 Rotating system
  - 22" x 15" x 12.75" high
  - Rotating torque: 36,000 inch-pounds min.
  - Braking torque: 100,000 inch-pounds min.
  - Mast rotation: 1/4 RPM (1/2 RPM optional)
  - Rotating Drive: Gear and dual chain system
  - Rotator Motor: 1/4 HP electric; reduction: 7200:1
  - Data Output: Selsyn

13-30 MHz. LP added to yagi array

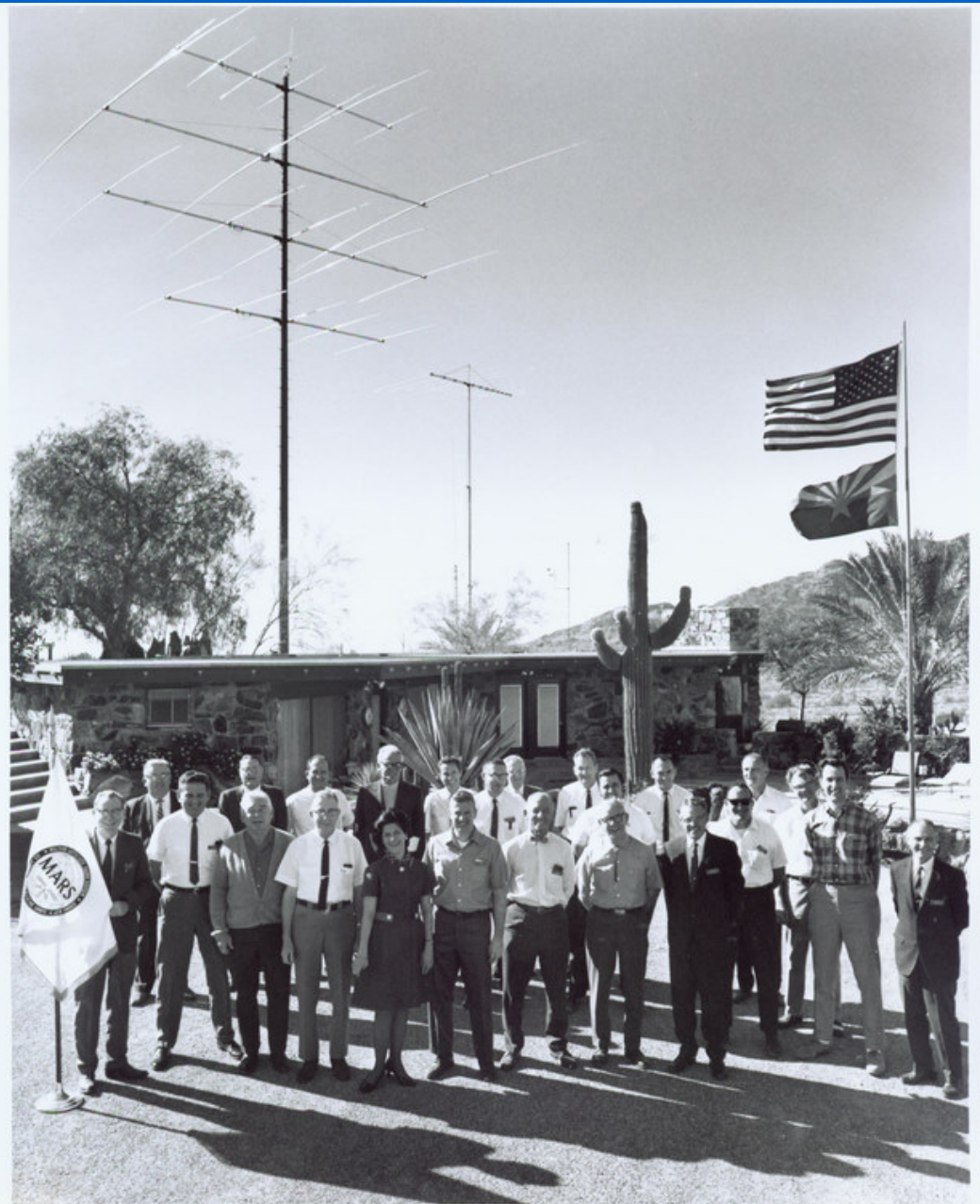
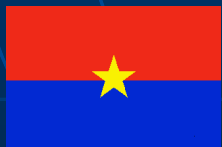




- '68 photo
- LP on own tower
- AZ flag outside



- Captured Vietcong flag inside



The  
AFA7UGA  
"shack"

-

2 beds  
1 bath  
kitchen  
Pool  
12.5 KW  
Generator

2 LP Antennas



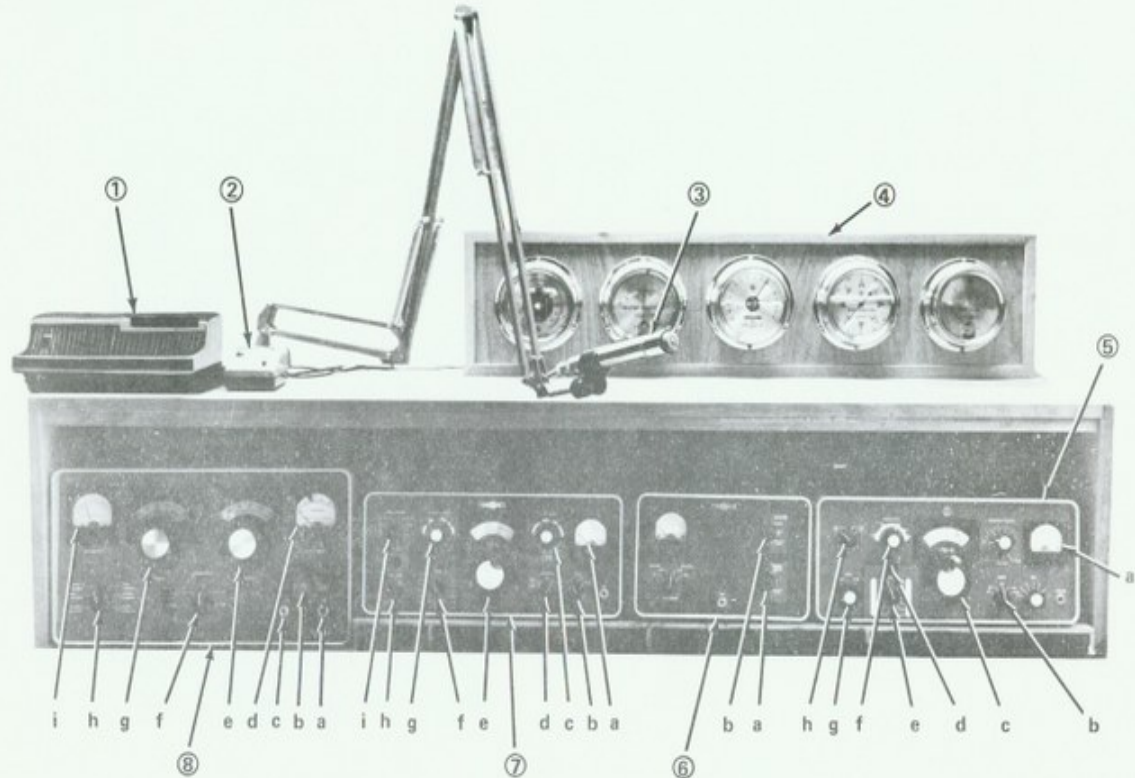
1974  
Photo  
showing  
7-30 LP  
and  
13-30 LP

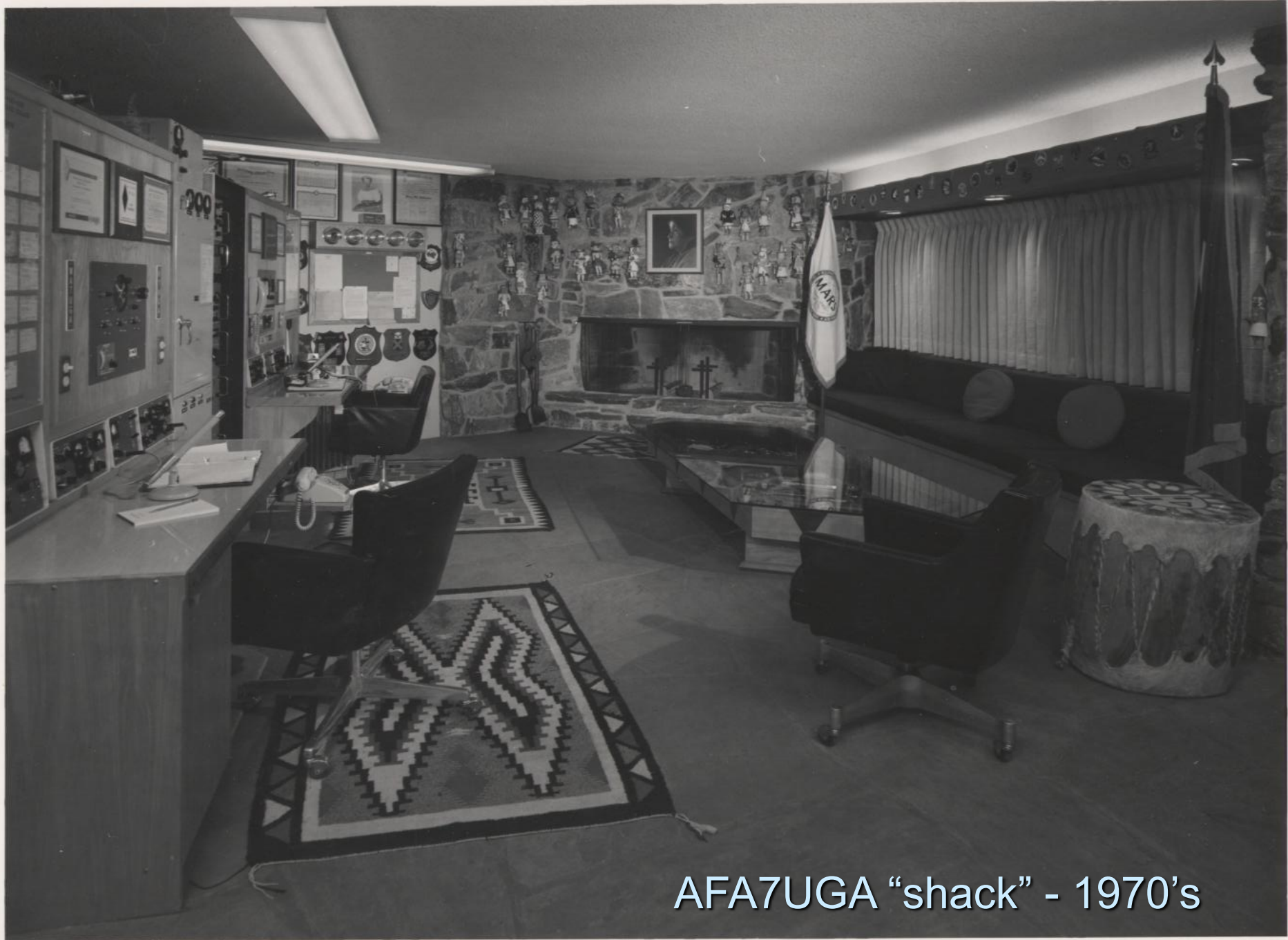


# Original AFA7UGA equipment

Bottom:  
30S-1 Linear  
32S-3 Exciter  
Speaker &  
Phone Patch  
75S-3C  
Receiver

Top:  
Tape Recorder  
for AFQ's  
Boom mike  
Weather  
station





AFA7UGA "shack" - 1970's



UNOFFICIAL  
MEMBER TO DATE  
STATION # 1421  
TERRA 1974  
1570 - 3500

SASH-HAL-NE-AE  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
OPERATORS

W7A7UGA

NEARBY: METAL TUBE TALKER

AFA7UGA  
"shack"  
1970's

# Phone Patching in Style

- Evolved to specially selected telephone operators
- Operators took a batch of 5 “listings”
- We (and eventually the operators) instructed parties on use of “over”
- AT&T headsets & Collins phone patch
- 5 min. calls – near zero delay between
- We served all ranks – highest was Major
- Operated switch – heart wrenching sometimes
- Barry paid for all calls first year (WATS)
- Longest distance call made was to Greece
- Barry paid for all Arizona calls thereafter

# MARS Base Stations

Also:

- AIR
- Collins  
Radio

## WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS REGION MARS BASE STATIONS

CALL SIGN	*	STATION DESIGNATION	LOCATION
AG5AA	--	Air National Guard	Great Falls, Mt
AG5AB	--	Geodetic Survey Sqd	Cheyenne, Wy
AG5AG	CS	Malstrom AFB	Great Falls, Mt
AG5AL	CS	Mt Home AFB	Mt Home, Id
AG5AM	RS	Condon AFS	Condon, Or
AG5AO	RS	Blaine AFS	Blaine, Wa
AG5AP	--	A.D.Wg. Spokane Int'l	Spokane, Wa
AG5AU	CSS	Paine Field	Everett, Wa
AG5AW	RS	Opheim AFS	Opheim, Mt
AG5AX	CS	Fairchild AFB	Spokane, Wa
AG5BC	RS	Burns AFS	Burns, Or
AG5BD	CF	Air National Guard	Cheyenne, Wy
AG5BG	RS	Lewiston AFS	Lewiston, Mt
AG5BH	RS	Kalispell AFS	Lakeside, Mt
AG5BK	--	Ftr. Wg. City-Cty Airport	Walla Walla, Wa
AG5BT	FG	Kingsley Field	Klamath Falls, Or
AG5BV	RS	Klamath Falls AFS	Klamath Falls, Or
AG5BZ	RS	Mt Hebo AFS	Mt Hebo, Or
AG5CG	RS	Othello AFS	Othello, Wa
AG5CK	RS	Makah AFS	Neah Bay, Wa
AG5HQ	CS	McChord AFB	Tacoma, Wash
AG6AA	--	AFOTC Williams AFB	Tempe, Az
AG6AB	CS	March AFB	Riverside, Ca
AG6AC	--	Vandenberg AFB	Lompoc, Ca
AG6AD	CS	Castle AFB	Merced, Ca
AG6AK	RS	Boron AFS	Boron, Ca
AG6AR	CS	Edwards AFB	Edwards, Ca
AG6AT	CS	George AFB	Victorville, Ca
AG6AV	CS	Travis AFB	Richmond, Ca
AG6AX	RS	Mt Laguna AFS	Mt Laguna, Ca
AG6AZ	CS	Mather AFB	Sacramento, Ca
AG6BA	RS	Red Bluff AFS	Red Bluff, Ca
AG6BG	CS	Norton AFB	San Bernardino, Ca
AG6BK	CS	AFAFC Denver	Denver, Co
AG6BN	CS	Davis-Monthan AFB	Tucson, Az
AG6BO	CD	Los Angeles AFS	Los Angeles, Ca
AG6BW	--	Air National Guard	Aurora, Co
AG6CR	CS	Williams AFB	Chandler, Az
AG6CS	CS	Nellis AFB	Las Vegas, Nv
AG6CT	CS	Luke AFB	Phoenix, Az
AG6CV	--	Air National Guard	Phoenix, Az
AG6DA	CS	Vandenberg AFB	Lompoc, Ca
AG6DC	RS	Mt Lemmon AFS	Mt Lemmon, Az
AG6DG	--	Air National Guard	Salt Lake City, Ut
AG6DK	RS	Point Arenas AFS	Point Arena, Ca
AG6DN	CS	Hill AFB	Ogden, Ut
AG6DP	AD	Luke AFB	Phoenix, Az
AG6DZ	CS	Beale AFB	Marysville, Ca
AG6EA	CG	McClellan AFB	Sacramento, Ca

CALL SIGN	*	STATION DESIGNATION	LOCATION
AG6EF	--	Norton AFB	San Bernardino, Ca
AG6EM	IS	Vandenberg AFB	Lompoc, Ca
AG6EP	CS	Lowry AFB	Denver, Co
AG6EQ	CS	Ent AFB	Colorado Springs, Co
AG6ER	--	Air National Guard	Greeley, Co
AG6EW	CS	USAF Academy	Colorado Springs, Co
AG6EY	CS	Cannon AFB	Clovis, NM
AG6EZ	CS	Holloman AFB	Alamogordo, NM
AG6FA	CS	Kirtland AFB	Albuquerque, NM
AG6FD	CF	Kirtland AFB	Albuquerque, NM
AG6HQ	CSG	Hamilton AFB	California

* CS	=	Comm Sq
FG	=	Ftr Grp
AD	=	Air Div
CD	=	Comm Det
RS	=	Radar Sq
CSS	=	Combat Support Sq
CG	=	Comm Grp
CF	=	Comm Flt
IS	=	Instr Sq



Table 1-3. Southeast Asia Air Force Mars Stations

Station	Location	Country
AI1AH	Misawa	Japan
AI3AF	Taegu	Korea
AI4AF	Clark AFB	Phillipines
AI4BG	John Hay AFB	Phillipines
AI4DG	Mindanao	Phillipines
AI4MT	Mactan AFB	Phillipines
AI8AB	Bien Hoa	Vietnam
AI8AC	Cam Ranh Bay	Vietnam
AI8AD	Da Nang	Vietnam
AI8AF	Taipei	Taiwan (Formosa)
AI8AH	Tuy Hoa	Vietnam
AI8AM	Dan Nang (Monkey Mtn)	Vietnam
AI8AN	Nha Trang	Vietnam
AI8AP	Pleiku	Vietnam
AI8AR	Phan Rang	Vietnam
AI8AT	Binh Thuy	Vietnam
AI8AU	Phu Cat	Vietnam
AI8AIR	Tan Son Nhut	Vietnam
AI8BU	Ban-U-Tapao	Thailand
AI8CC	Taichung	Taiwan (Formosa)
AI8JU	Bangkok	Thailand
AI8NP	Nakhon Phanom	Thailand
AI8TA	Don Muang	Thailand
AI8UA	Khorat	Thailand
AI8UC	Chiang Mai	Thailand
AI8UD	Udorn	Thailand
AI8UN	Ubon	Thailand
AI8UT	Takhli	Thailand

Our  
Customers

SE Asia  
AF MARS  
Stations

Vietnam  
Thailand  
Philippines  
Taiwan  
Japan

# 14403.4 KHz. to 20995.5 KHz.

## Frequency Patch List

	Dec.67	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
14403.4									23		23
14392	06	25		06		12	43	11		07	110
14406.5	15	01	10								26
14530	48	05	32	50		35		14	13		197
14830.5				18					06		24
14833.5	07	79	15	10				11		05	127
15635		19					11	81	33	16	160
15805					15						15
15807	03		12	02							17
16453.5	55	56	60	308	578	414	217	168	396	316	2568
17670		03	13	11	10	138	122	37	03	06	343
19938	01		24	46	16						87
20810	05				12	67	37	89	154	34	398
20871.5	119	43				05	175	257	228	41	868
20960	06	35		17	26	02	34	35	06	46	207
20992.5	06			01		09					16
20995.5						04		18		11	33

# 22950.0 KHz. to 27992.5 KHz.

	Dec. 67	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
22950	22										22
23865	50	472	751	854	603	165	41		13	143	3092
24022	75					03			07	09	94
24575		68		05	04						84
26660	23	10									33
27985	07										07
27992.5	35	34									69

(approximate figures since August thru November not reported by frequency.)

Total 8536

## Comments from AI8AM, Monkey Mtn:

- *"I was a volunteer operator at AI8AM (Alpha Monkey). we were a fairly small station ( one transceiver, linear amplifier and a LARC periodic antenna on a 20 mast). We did have pretty good reception being on top of an 800 meter mountain (Monkey Mountain). There was another MARS station in DaNang, located at the air base AI8AD ( we called it Alpha Doodle). this was much larger with several transceiver online and was run by the Air Force."*

# Comments from AI8AIR, Tan Son Nhut:

- *"Entered the USAF in January 1958 and was assigned as a Ground Radio Operator. During my almost thirty (30) years in the USAF I was assigned to quite a few Communications Organizations at which I was either assigned to or operated a USAF MARS Station. The most memorable MARS assignment was at Tan Son Nhut AB RVN from 1967 to 1968. That station was the Net Control Station (NCS) for all USAF MARS stations operating from both Vietnam and Thailand, and as such had to ensure that stations were operating within established regulations as well as complete phone patches for military personnel in-country. The station completed thousands of patches within that one year, thanks to a crew of dedicated Radio Operators. Most of our phone patches were run through AFA7UGA, (Barry Goldwater)..There are over one hundred (100) volunteer MARS Affiliates who dedicate their time and equipment to serve MARS. Although our emphasis is no longer on Health Welfare and Morale Communications, we have assumed an equally important mandate which is providing Emergency Communications whenever and wherever needed. I wish that it was possible for me to recall all of the dedicated Radio Operators that I have had the privilege of serving with over my career "*

## Comments from AI8AU, Phu Cat:

- *"I was a ground radio tech (30454) with the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron (TASS) at Nha Trang AB in 1968-69, and the MARS station was down the street. I helped out at the station, but only in a volunteer capacity... the only stateside MARS station I recall using from there was Barry Goldwater's, AFA7UGA."*

# Comments from AI8AB, Bien Hoa:

- *"Troops would register each day for a patch (if I remember right, it was "one patch a month"), and we'd give the listings to the CONUS stations. I believe they had the cooperation of the phone company (there was only one in those days!), and a phone operator would spend the entire session with the radio operator. They'd place the collect calls, however charges did not start until the troop actually began the conversation. Some would be busy, some a no answer, so whatever one they could complete first was connected, the rest stayed on the list."*
- *"The CONUS stations would rotate through each of the RVN stations, and the phone operators would basically have the calls "stacked up," waiting. Since they were not beginning the charges until the station actually came up on the rotation, it meant a much lower phone bill for the troops' families, but sometimes a fairly long wait from the time the collect call was placed. Patches lasted 5 minutes. The number you could complete in a night depended on radio propagation conditions, of course, but under generally good conditions, we could complete 15 or so."*

# Comment from GI's:

- *".. Mars was there for me in Viet Nam, and I want to thank all the folks who let me say " Hello Ma , Over" and there was nothing better than to luck out and get into the Goldwater Net, and get the free call home in the states from our good friend Barry.. Thank you folks,, well done.."*
- *"...The MARS site was great, because it allow me to call home, when propagation allowed. We liked to make radio contact with a station in Arizona supported by Barry Goldwater, because he paid the cost of phone calls from his station to people's homes."*



# Story in Phoenix Magazine

April, 1968

## Barry and Mike Wallace



CBS news correspondent Mike Wallace toured the radio shack with Goldwater while they talked politics and people. Vietnam was part of the conversation, but it was the men over there, rather than the war itself, which received the attention.

## OPERATION MARS

BY PETER STILP

*America's most famous ham radio operator, with the help of volunteers, is giving servicemen in Vietnam a chance to call home.*

LAST SEPTEMBER there was a quiet but extraordinary change made in one of the most famous broadcasting stations in the world. Ham radio station K7UGA joined with Operation MARS to provide radio-telephone communications between the service men and women in Vietnam and their families in the states.

The entire operation is owned by Barry Goldwater, who also picks up the operating tab, but 22 volunteers, some from

as far away as Williams Air Force Base, are making it work.

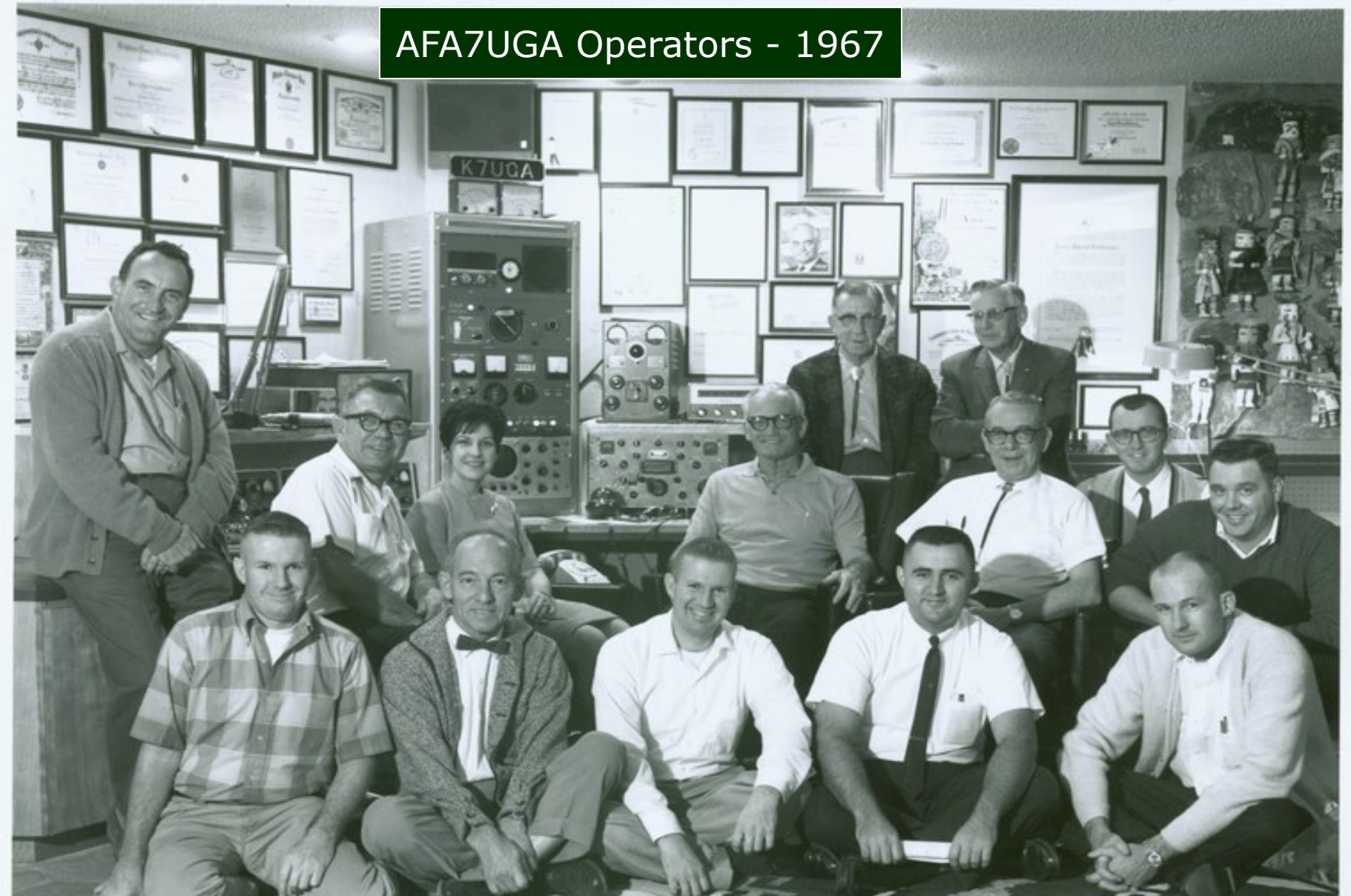
Operation MARS is a network of ham radio stations scattered throughout the world and connected into MARS stations almost everywhere U.S. servicemen are stationed.

Any serviceman who can get to a MARS station overseas is entitled to one call home a month and thousands use the privilege, even if it means standing in line

for hours, waiting for their turn or for a clear channel.

MARS stands for Military Affiliate Radio System. To state its function simply, it is a short wave telephone between the serviceman and home, several thousand miles away. The only charge involved in a MARS call is the cost of the telephone call between the point of radio reception in the United States and the serviceman's home.

# AFA7UGA Operators - 1967



Top (l-t-r): Bob Siler AFB7DUO, Elmer Olson AFA7GPZ, Bill Eccles AFA7MJC  
Middle (l-t-r): Herman Middleton AF7DOZ, Doris Counts, Barry Goldwater AFA7UGA, Hal Jackson AFA7PNY,  
Hal Devaney AFA7AQS, Don Loudrermilk AFB4FCM  
Bottom (l-t-r): Bob Franklin AFA7BPM, Ray Baker AFA7CCI, Bill Franklin AF7DOZ, Frank Fahrlander AF7DNF, John Crain AFB7EXZ

# The '68 roster

## 23 members

### An honor to be listed with Barry and the gang

NAME	CALL	ADDRESS	HOME	WORK
Ray Baker	AFA7CCI	3347 East Hubbell Phoenix, Arizona 85008	275-9108	
Bill Eccles	AFA7MJC	5939 East Quartz Mountain Rd. Scottsdale, Arizona 85251	948-0594	
Barry Goldwater	AFA7UGA	6250 North Hogahn Drive Scottsdale, Arizona	946-1982 (Shack)	946-0078 (Shack)
Herman Middleton	AF7TPG	1124 East Rose Lane Phoenix, Arizona 85014	265-4103	277-7494
Elmer Olson	AFA7GPZ	5733 North 41st Place Phoenix, Arizona 85018	959-1874	
Frank Farlander	AF7DNF	337 West Butler Drive Phoenix, Arizona 85021	997-1106	941-2194
Gene Traber	AF7GX	1701 N. 20th St. Phoenix, Arizona	254-2492	
Bill Franklin	AF7DOZ	7633 North 9th Ave. Phoenix, Arizona 85021	943-8675	941-4900
Hal Jackson	AFA7PMY	6626 East Coronado Road Scottsdale, Arizona 85257	945-3139	947-8631
Don Loudermilk	AFB4FCM	14 Idaho Place Williams AFB, Arizona 85224	988-1173	966-2611 (Ext. 6676)
Bob Siler	AFB7DUC	4230 North 64th Drive Phoenix, Arizona 85033	939-6810	941-2694
Bob Kraig	AF70YC	3421 East McKinley St. Phoenix, Arizona	273-1945	
Chuck Bitter	AFA7DHG	6445 East Monterosa Ave. Scottsdale, Arizona 85257	945-1625	947-8874
Jim Wright	AF7POS	P.O. Box 9385 Phoenix, Arizona 85020		947-8851
Tom Moore	AF7FCQ	3132 North Granite Reef Rd. Scottsdale, Arizona 85257	945-4914	
Bob Martin	AFA7NFZ	4023 East Campbell Phoenix, Arizona		967-7889
Don Tyrrell	AF7AZG	8637 East Sells Drive Scottsdale, Arizona	945-1514	273-8271
Tom Watkins	AF7MJD	7458 East Coronado Rd. Scottsdale Arizona, 85257	945-6553	267-3411
Tom James	AF7OPS	7449 East Coronado Rd. Scottsdale, Arizona, 85257	945-4867	276-2567
Dwight Pringle	AF7UMS	2816 East Yucca Phoenix, Arizona 85028	944-4683	947-1272
Bob Chamberlin	AFB7EIG	9803 N. 28th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85028	944-9264	
Paul Fleury	AFB7KEJ	21 West Turney Road Phoenix, Arizona 85013	277-4627	264-1167
Dwight Harkins	W7EAQ	6035 Exeter Blvd. Scottsdale, Arizona 85251	945-0222 946-2233	258-7333

Oct 12, 1968

AFCS  
Certificate  
Of  
Appreciation  
to  
AFA7UGA

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AFCS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

TO

BARRY H. GOLDWATER, AFA7UGA

Mr. Goldwater distinguished himself by providing meritorious service as a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) Southeast Asia phone patch station during the period September 1967 to October 1968. He has provided the facilities and organized a group which has completed more than 10,000 phone patches between Southeast Asia MARS stations and United States locations. By his personal efforts, he has made a significant contribution toward bolstering the morale of servicemen stationed in Southeast Asia and supporting the mission of the MARS program. Mr. Goldwater, through his unselfish efforts and dedication to the MARS program has brought credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

# Air Force Communications Service



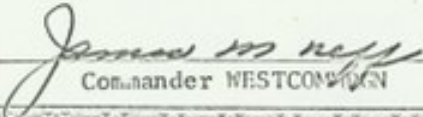
## Certificate of Appreciation

Is awarded to

BARRY M. GOLDWATER, AFA7UGA

In Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to the  
Furtherance of the AFCS Mission.

Awarded this 12th day of October 19 68

  
Commander WESTCON/AN

  
Commander AFCS

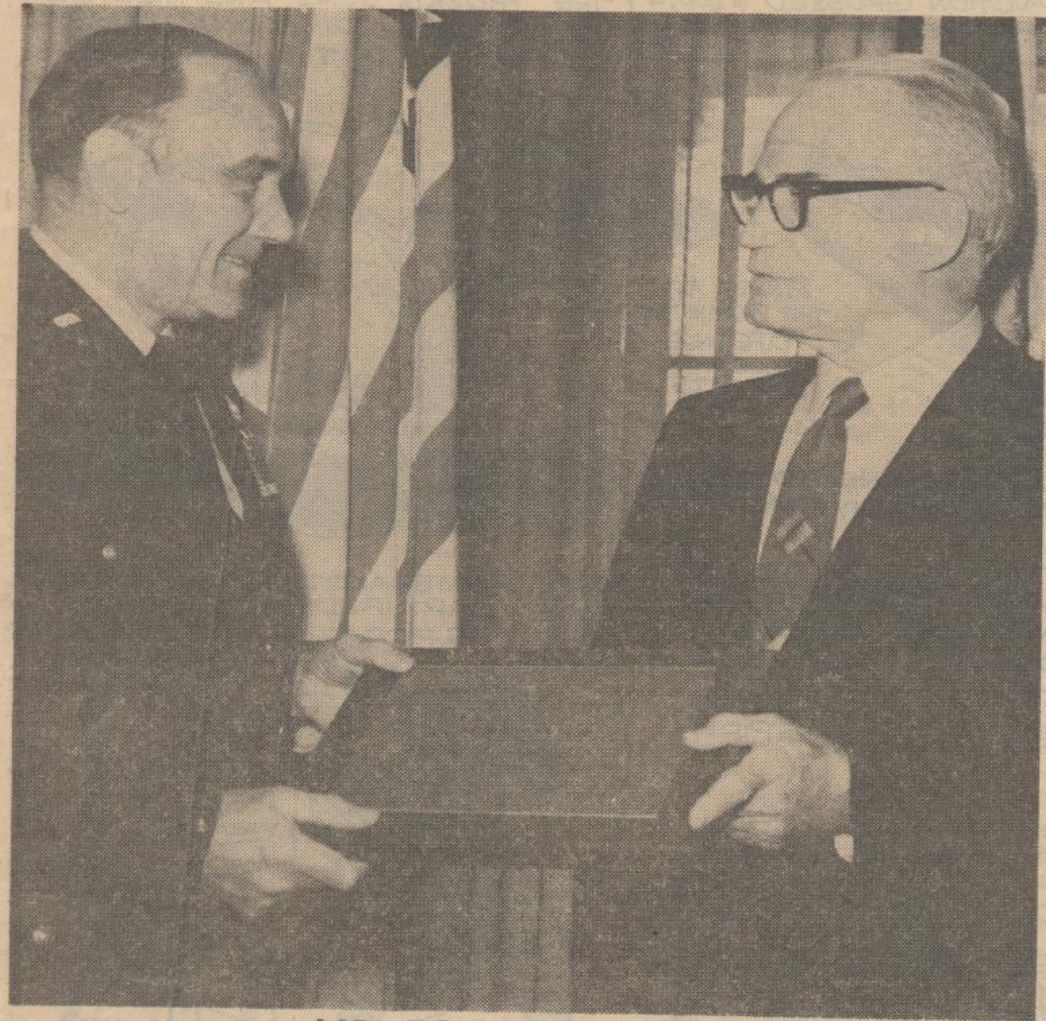
# An honor from the AF Chief of Staff

40,000 patches  
in 4 years

March 28, 1970

John D. Ryan

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1970



## AIR FORCE THANKS

Air Force Chief of Staff John D. Ryan presents Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., a plaque recognizing outstanding contribution to the morale of Air Force personnel, by Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) Station AFA7UCA, which the senator established at his own expense in his Paradise Valley home. The station, operated around the clock by 25 volunteer radio amateurs, handled 40,000 radio-telephone patches the past four years between American servicemen in Southeast Asia and their families and friends in the United States. This was the highest number of calls handled by any volunteer Air Force MARS station for that period. Goldwater also was given certificates to present to the station operators.

# 100,000<sup>th</sup> Call

December 16, 1971

4-D The Arizona Republic  
Thurs., Dec. 16, 1971

## *Ham radio lists 100,000<sup>th</sup> call*

The 100,000<sup>th</sup> radio call was made yesterday by Sen. Barry M. Goldwater's amateur radio station.

Most of the calls were of the "phone patch" variety to servicemen in Vietnam and elsewhere overseas.

A phone patch call enables the serviceman's kin at his home to talk by telephone to Goldwater's station, which relays the conversation via shortwave radio overseas.

The station's call letters are K7UGA, but when taking part in the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) system it uses the call letters AFA7UGA.

Yesterday's record-setting call was between Sgt. B. David Bennett in Vietnam and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Bennett of Memphis, Tenn.

# Patching operation - 1968





# Adjusting the Robot-70 Slow Scan TV monitor (SSTV transmitted a 256 line picture in 34 seconds)

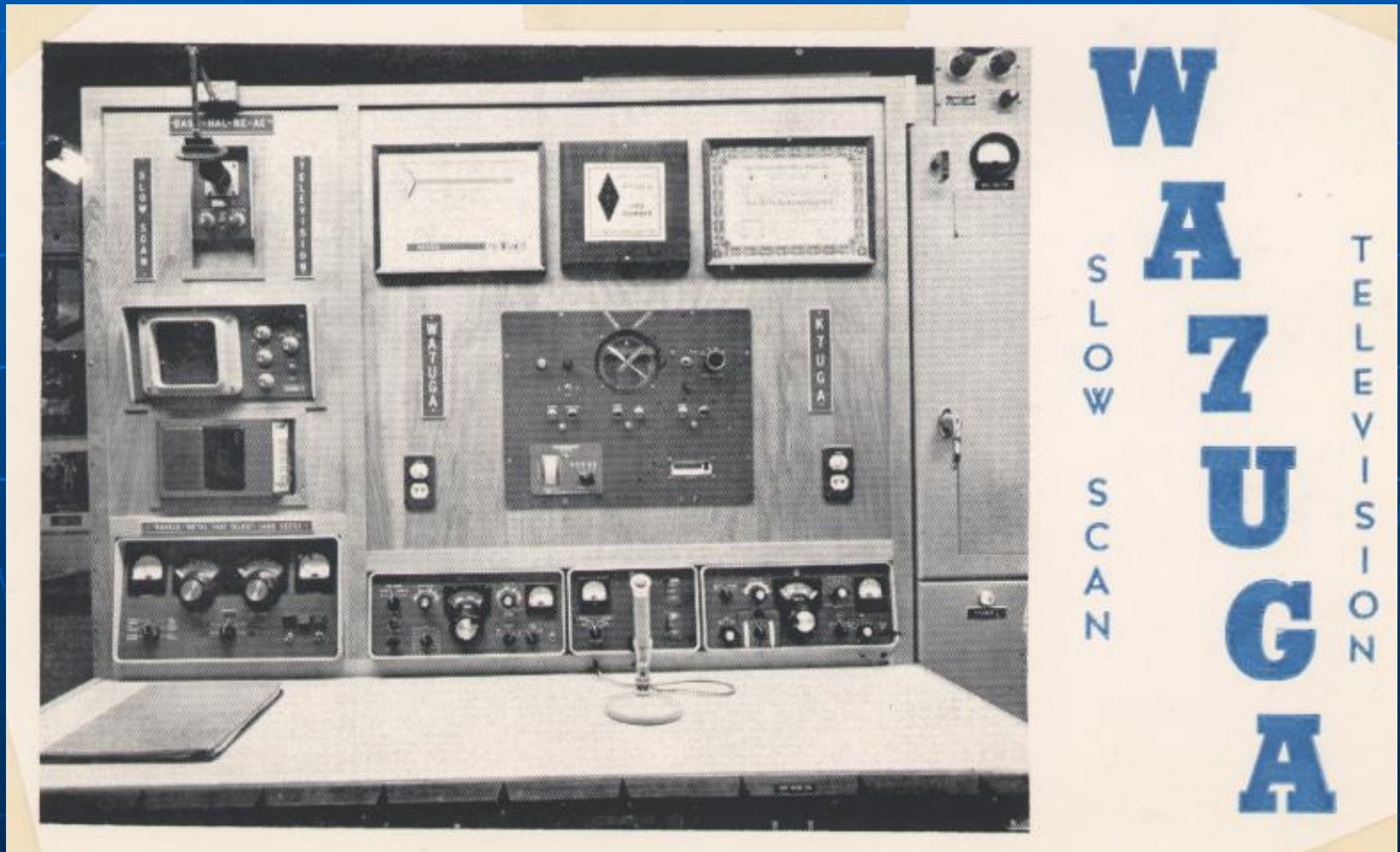


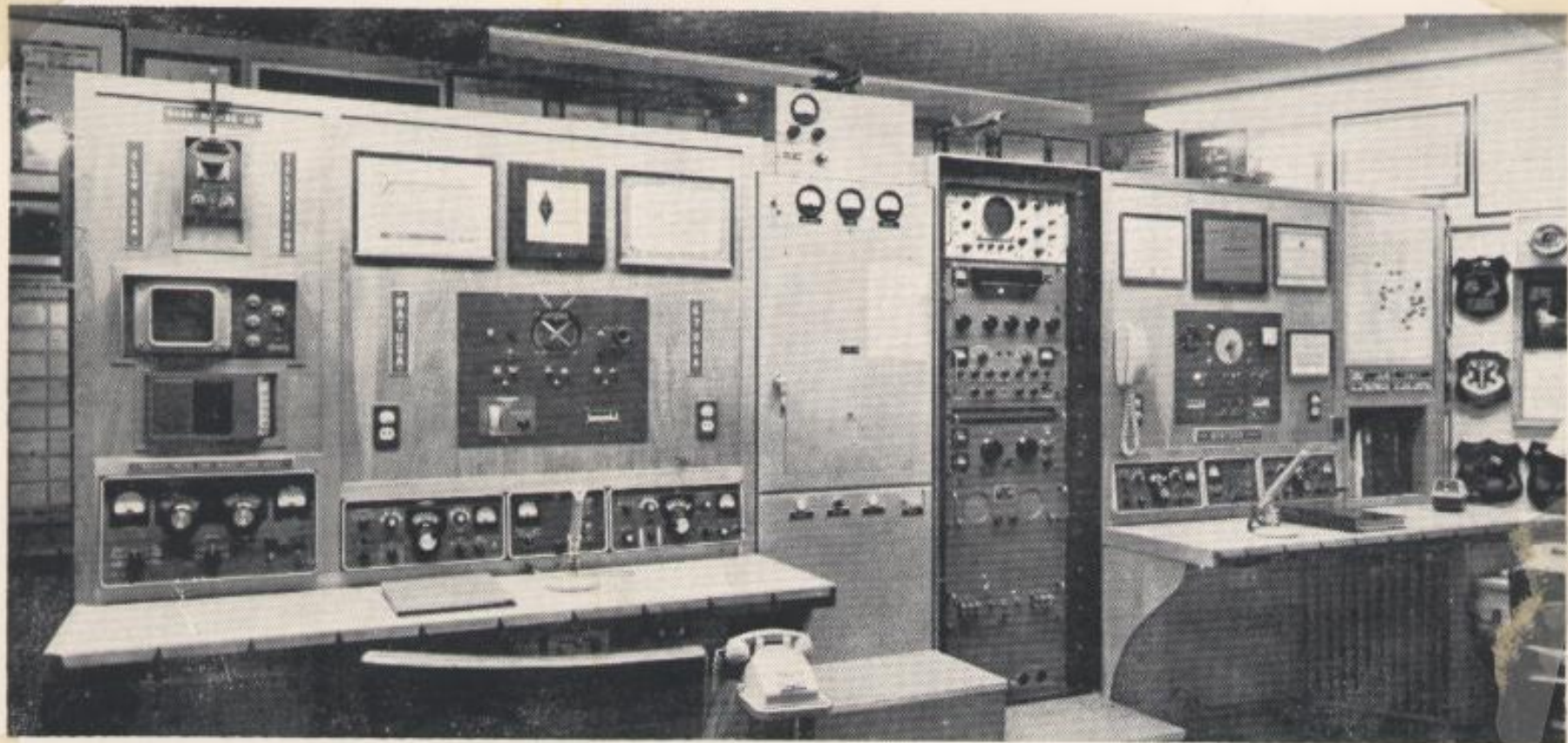
AF7DOZ



Sample SSTV  
Transmission

# Wrap up with some of Barry's QSL cards





SLOW SCAN

**WA7UGA**

TELEVISION

# K3UIG

K7UGA - ARIZONA

*Barry Goldwater*

4000 Cathedral Ave., N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

U. S. A.

FORMERLY 6BPI



QCWA AREA

FHC

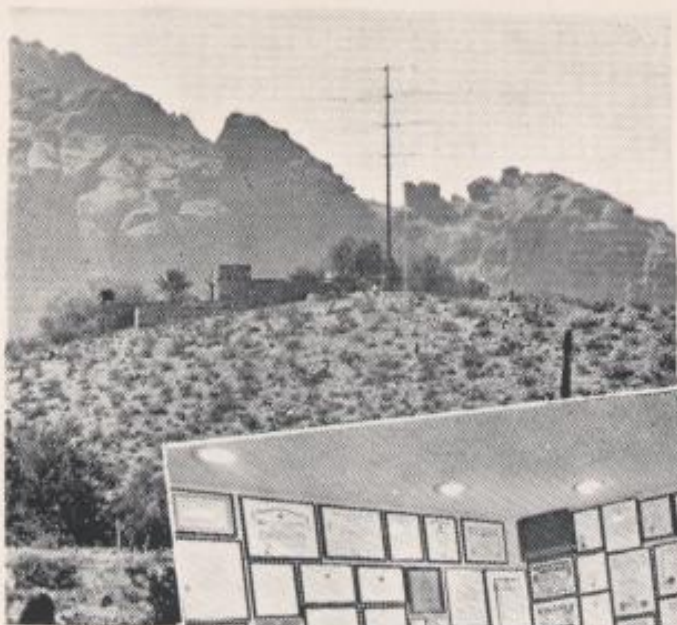
MARS

OOTC



# K3UIG





# K7UGA

*Barry Goldwater*



6250 NORTH HOGAHN  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251 U. S. A.



K3UIG  
EX - 6BPI  
MARS  
OOTC  
IARC  
FHC  
QCWA

Station left to right . . .

Collins S Line with Heathkits Monitor Scope and Ham - Scan

Center Panel contains Antenna switching controls, dummy loads for both rigs, Antenna rotating control, weather station indicators, light and power controls, clock, and Antenna grounding switch.

Hallicrafter SR 150 with Loudenboomer Mark II A linear. Above this Hallicrafters portable receiver, their model CRX-3 Aircraft freq. rcvr, SWR meter, Distortion Indicator and a Panadaptor.

Antenna System . . .

Hy-Gains Long John Model RP-75 with display from top of 77' rotating steel mast — 10-40-20-15

Hy-Gains all band vertical used mostly on 80.

Normally the Collins feeds the Long John and the Hallicrafter the Vertical but they can be interchanged.

**K7UGA**

*Barry Goldwater*

**6250 North Hogahn  
Phoenix, Arizona**

# K7UGA/



D. C.



SCOTTSDALE



NEWPORT BEACH



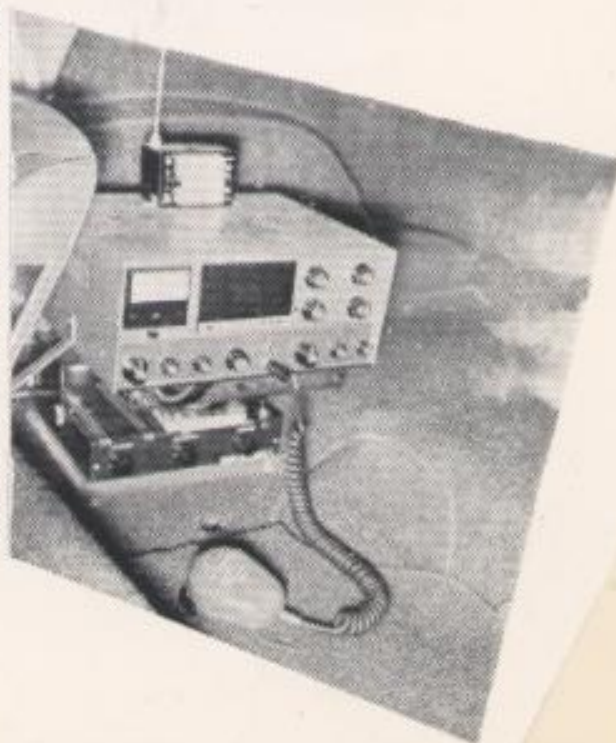
EX - 6BPI

OOTC - FHC - MARS

QCWA



# K7UGA



*Barry Goldwater*

6250 North Hogahn

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85018 U. S. A.



# K7UGA



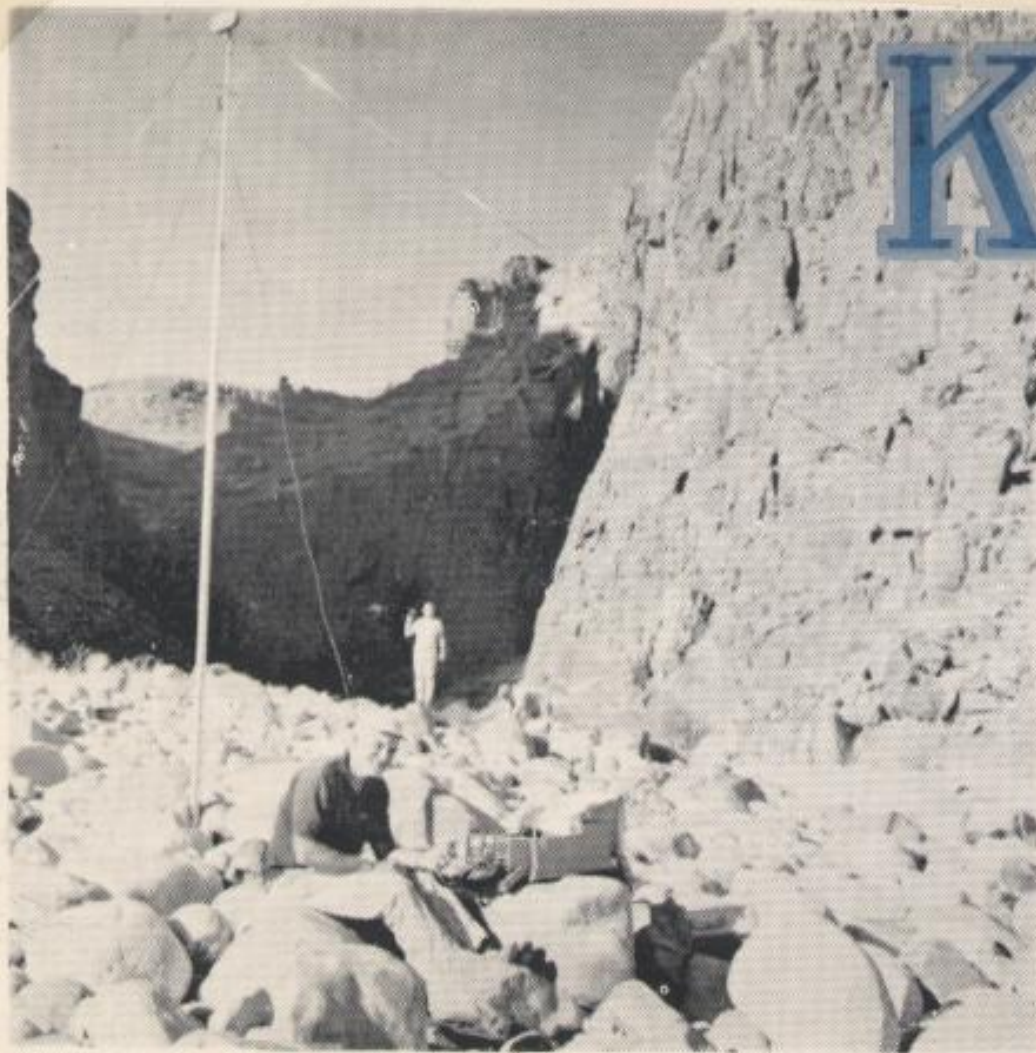
*Barry Goldwater*

EX - 68PI, 1972

MARITIME MOBILE

TEH-SE-NY





# K7UGA

PORTABLE SEVEN

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE

**Grand Canyon**



*Barry Goldwater*

6250 North Hogahn

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



**BARRY GOLDWATER**

**K7UGA - K3UIG**

**AFC6BG**

Shirley



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

# W3USS



CAPITOL HILL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P. O. Box 73, UNITED STATES SENATE

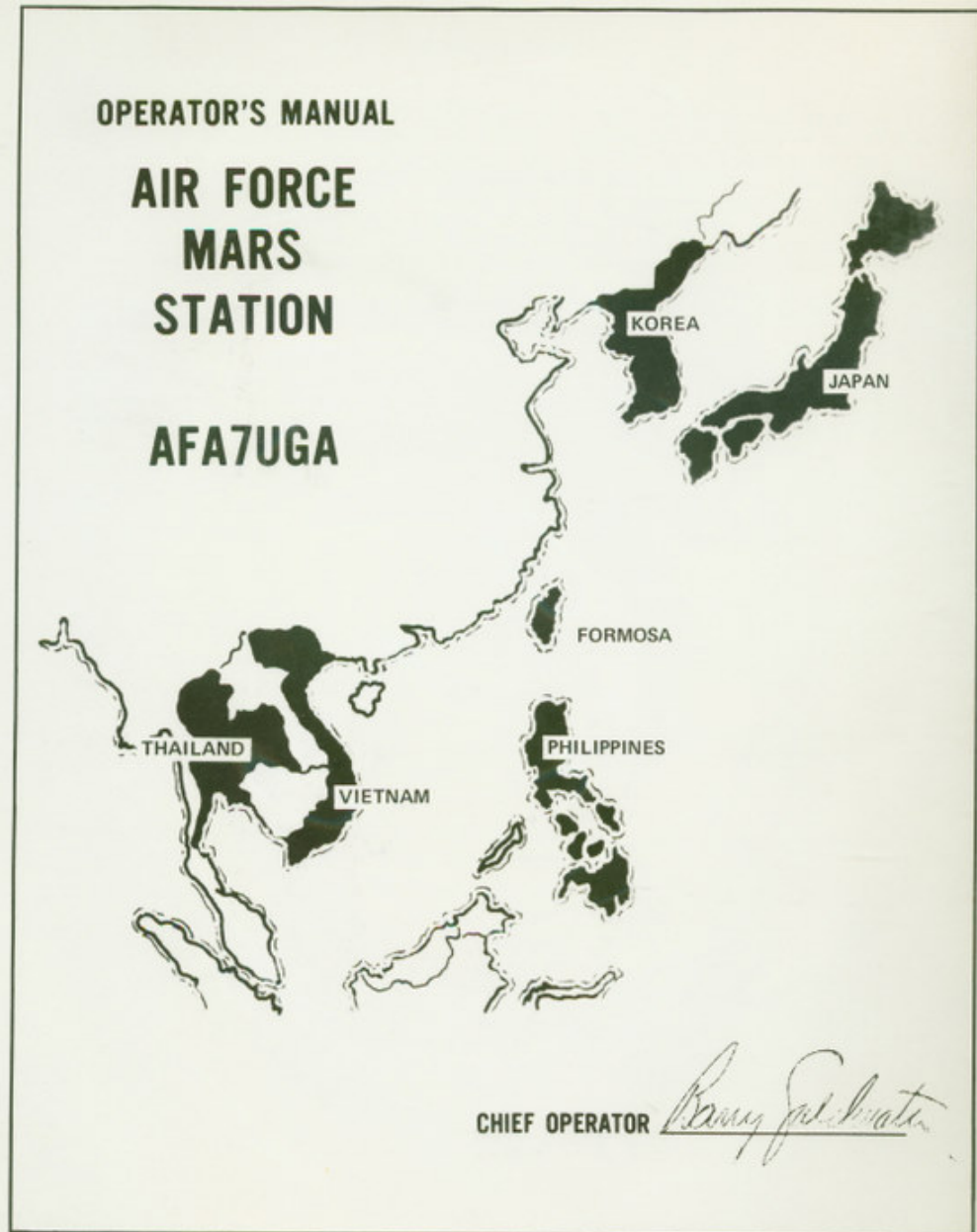
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510 U.S.A.



The End

# Our Operator's Manual

Created by  
Hal Jackson,  
AFA7PMY





# Our first group picture

# Our leaders: Herman AF7TPG & Bill AFA7MJC



The gang at K7UGA — Standing in rear, Elmer Olson and Bill Eccles. From left, center, Bob Silder, Herman Middleton, Doris Counts, Barry Goldwater, Hal Jackson, Hal Devaney and Don Loudermilk. Front, Bob Franklin, Ray Baker, Bill Franklin, Frank Fahrlander and John Croin.



Over 4000 members of the SW Division of the American Radio Relay League will meet at Del Webb's TowneHouse Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Honorary chairman is Barry Goldwater.

Herman Middleton, seated, is the chief operator of the Goldwater station. He sets up schedules and works with the other operators to make sure there is coverage during those critical hours when the calls start coming in from Vietnam. Middleton gets an assist from William Eccles, a regular volunteer operator. All calls within Arizona are free, with no charge to either servicemen or their families.

For example, a serviceman in Vietnam goes to his local MARS radio shack. He gives the name and telephone number he wants to reach. The MARS operator in Vietnam contacts the MARS radio shack nearest the serviceman's home, or in some cases, the one with the quickest availability for conversation.

If the serviceman wants to talk to someone in Phoenix, the call may well be routed through Goldwater's station, adjacent to the Goldwaters' home in Paradise Valley. Upon receipt of the call, Goldwater's station would dial the number, patch in the short-wave and let the serviceman talk to his family. There would be no charge to anyone. If a call should come through a Phoenix station for someone in another state, the same system would prevail, except that long distance charges from Phoenix to the other state would be paid for by the serviceman's family. Not at all expensive, when you consider the call came from 10,000 miles away.

However, the family cannot originate the call. The origination must come from the serviceman himself. There are several

reasons for this, not the least of which is the difficulty in locating a fighting man who may not be readily available when the call comes.

Sometimes a call has been almost completed, only to find that the serviceman is no longer available. His area has been hit by an alert and, for the moment, he has more immediate things to do than talk to his loved ones, however important that conversation might be.

Of the 1,000-plus calls processed at the Goldwater station each month, more than 80% are connected. Some of the calls cannot be completed because the family isn't home when the call comes through. Sometimes it is a technical problem of short wave communications and sometimes it is the enemy. The Communists work hard at jamming the frequencies used by MARS and there are at least two agents in the United States who jam calls at this end with pseudo-legal means that would only be permitted in a complete democracy.

Sometimes there is heartbreak for the operators who hear a woman in the states tell a man in Vietnam, "I'm not going to

wait any longer. We're working on the divorce now."

And in Vietnam the serviceman will say: "Wait until I get home. Wait until we can talk about it."

But the woman does not wait and the "Dear John" letter of World War II becomes the electronic 'goodby' of today, day.

The operators confess they sometimes work with tears in their eyes. They also hasten to add that such situations are rare, compared to the thousands of calls processed.

Most of the calls from servicemen are full of reassurance for their loved ones. They say the news reports about how rough the fighting is, or how many casualties were sustained, are exaggerated and in any case, "don't worry, because I'm not where the trouble is."

No operator can recall a complaint about the war or how it is being conducted, and morale, based on the calls, is high.

Goldwater, when he can, mans the radio station himself and when he can't the 22 volunteers, who work without pay, see that the calls are completed. For their convenience, there is a two-bedroom apartment next door to the radio shack. There is also the Goldwater swimming pool, television, a radio and air conditioning, so that a volunteer can take his family with him in comfort when he checks in for his tour of duty.

Radio station K7UGA may be the number one MARS station in the country, based on the number of calls processed.

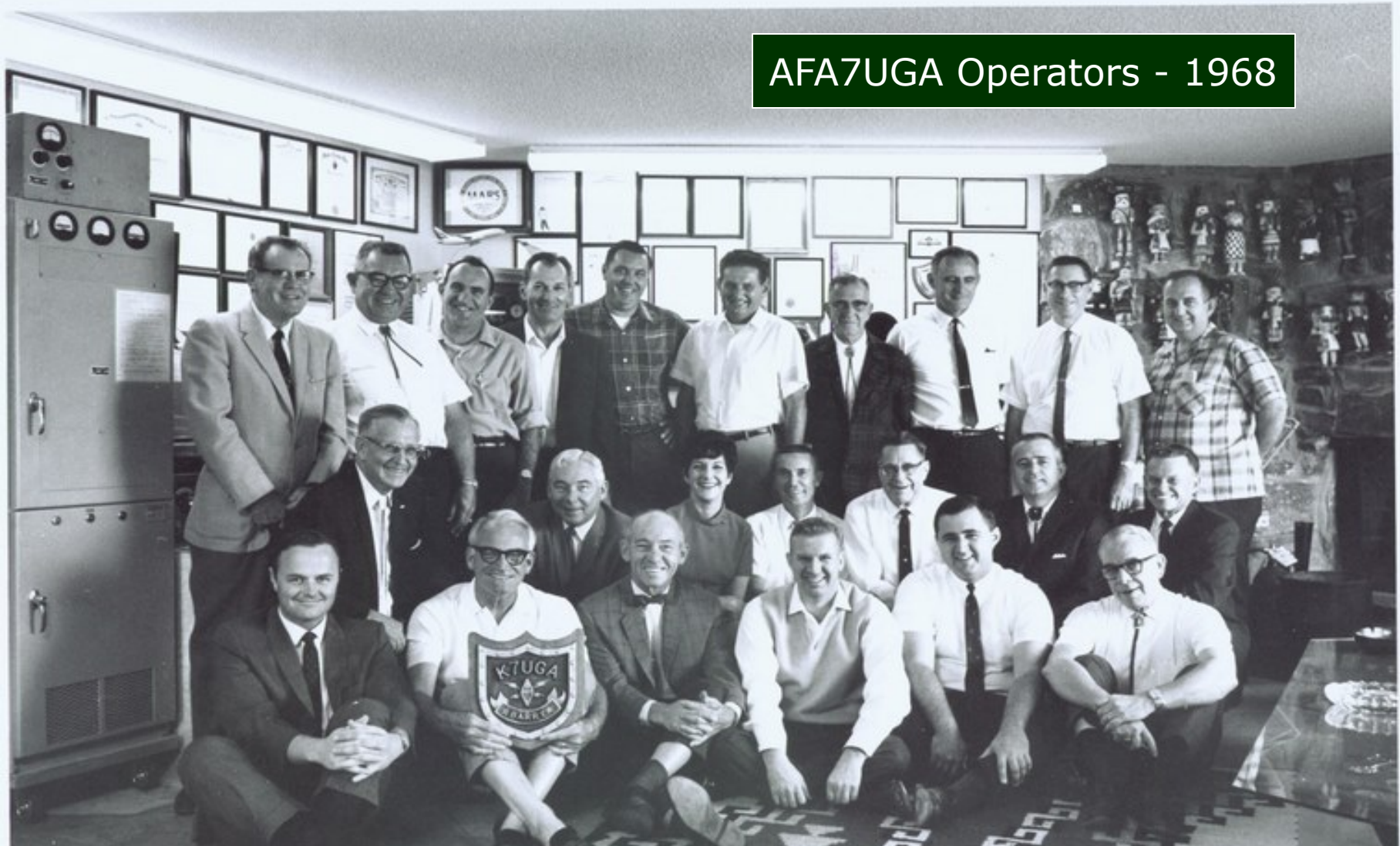
But, despite the average of more than 1000 calls a month, Goldwater is impatient for more. By next month he will have installed auxiliary transmitting equipment, and there will be additional volunteers to man it. When everything is checked out, Goldwater feels the station will be able to handle a little less than twice the number of calls currently processed.

Recently Goldwater's station was given a government commendation for its work in maintaining contact between the families in the states and the fighting men overseas.

Barry Goldwater is particularly proud of the volunteers who earned that award, because of the thousands of telephone-radio calls it represented. He and the other men who work the station urge Arizonans to write their servicemen overseas and tell them to stop by their nearest MARS station and call home.

Said Goldwater: "We'll be waiting, ready whenever they are." ●

## AFA7UGA Operators - 1968

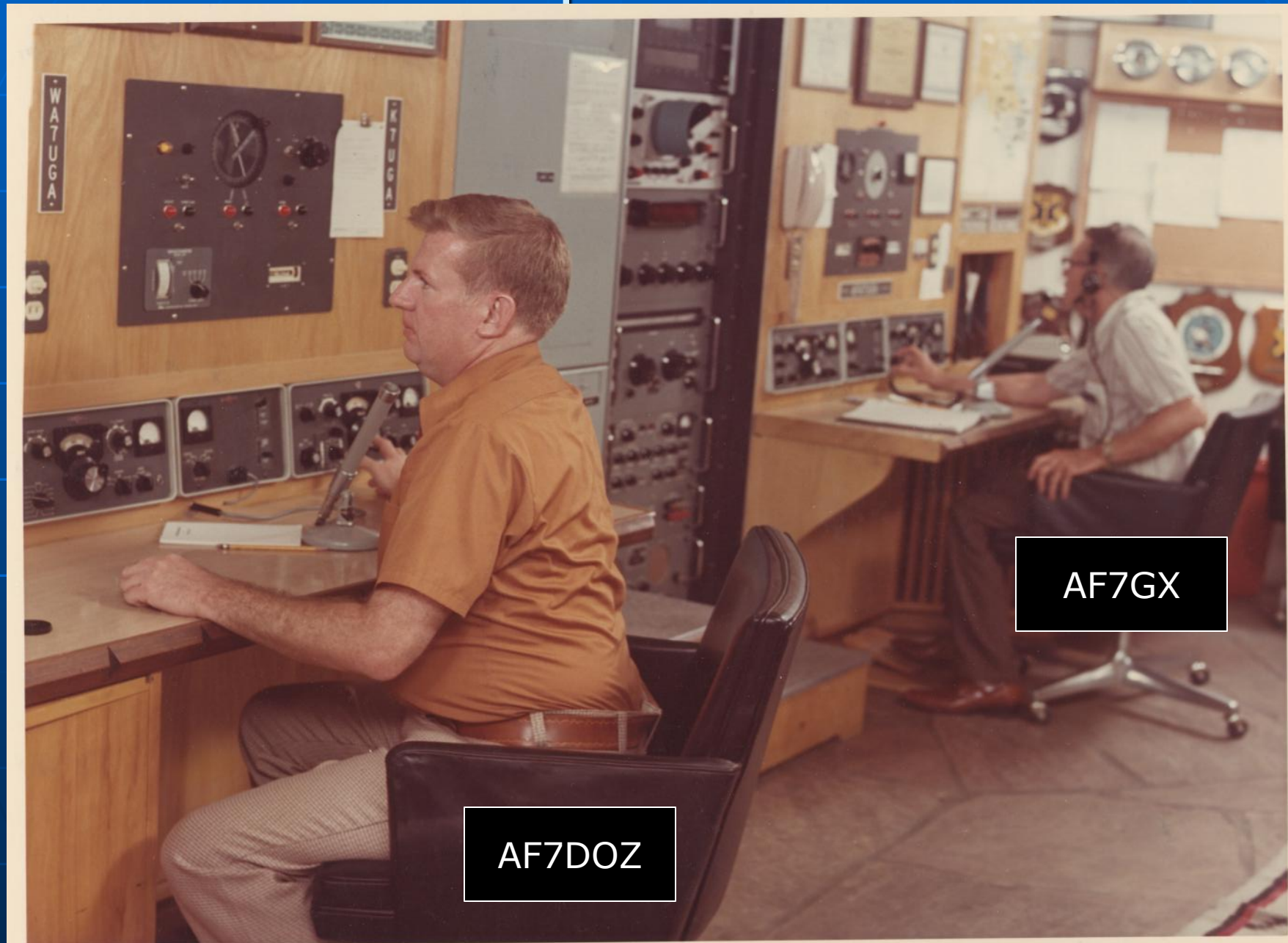


Top (l-t-r): Dwight Harkins AF7EAQ, Herman Middleton AF7TPG, Bob Siler AFB7DUO, Bob Kraig AF7OYC, Don Loudermilk AFB4FCM, Tom Watkins AFA7MJD, Olie Olsen AFA7GPZ, Dwight Pringle AF7UMS, Chuck Bitter AFA7DHG, Tom James AF7OPS

Middle (l-t-r): Bill Eccles AFA7MJC, Tom Moore AF7FCQ, Doris Counts Secretary, Jim Wright AF7POS, Bob Chamberlin AFB7EIG, Bob Martin AFA7NFZ, Gene Traber AF7GX (Not pictured: John Crain AFB7EXZ, Tom Ohlin AFA7DRG)

Front (l-t-r): Don Tyrrell AFA7AZG, Barry Goldwater AFA7UGA, Ray Baker AFA7CCI, Bill Franklin AF7DOZ, Frank Fahrlander AF7DNF, Hal Jackson, AFA7PMY

# AFA7UGA operations - 1970s



AF7DOZ

AF7GX

# Introduction & welcome from Barry Goldwater AFA7UGA

## INTRODUCTION

More important than the facilities of K7UGA is your willingness to devote your time and effort to handle phone patch traffic at K7UGA. My feeling is that some of us are too old to participate in this present conflict in Vietnam, others have served their time, therefore, it seems that the least we can do is something like we are all engaged in doing here at K7UGA -- putting these men stationed overseas in touch with their families here in the United States. To this end I want you to feel as much at home here as you would at your own QTH. This includes the use of the various facilities to be found in the cabana and also the swimming pool which I am sure, your children and the XYL would enjoy.

Do not hesitate to make suggestions as to how we can better the phone patch operation, or perhaps make a change or improvement in the shack that would make our over-all operation more enjoyable. The cooperative team work exhibited thus far in our operation has been outstanding. I know that as time goes on and the operations in Southeast Asia improve, and better net control is attained here in the United States, we can utilize more fully all our presently assigned frequencies and hopefully, acquire some new frequencies.

Keep in mind, too, those ladies at the telephone company who so patiently sweat out our calls -- they are as much a part of this team as we are. While there are times we might get a little bit upset, remember, they have problems they must surmount just as we do.

I know that as time goes by our operation will be more successful and, while we are striving to handle as many phone patches as possible, quality, in my opinion, comes first.

It's an honor to have you as one of our team, and also, it's an honor for me to be associated with you.

73s

*Barry Goldwater*  
Barry Goldwater

Welcome to our group!

It is a pleasure to have you participate in our operation of handling phone patch traffic from SEA.

The prime purpose of this manual is to acquaint you with the following: (1) tuning and operating radio equipment used for our operation; (2) operating frequencies assigned by Headquarters, Air Force Communications Services (HQ,AFCS); and (3) miscellaneous data pertinent to our particular operation. It is assumed that you possess and are fully acquainted with Air Force Manual AFM 100-5 MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM (MARS).

As Barry has mentioned in his Introduction, "feel free to bring your family or friends up to the station," however, bear in mind that you are responsible for the conduct and activities of these people. At all times, be considerate of the operator who is on duty and busy handling traffic. If you are engaged in conversation with another person (or persons) other than the operator, do so at some location in the shack other than the immediate vicinity of the operator on duty. Be sure to give notification, in time (if possible), that you will not be able to keep scheduled duty.

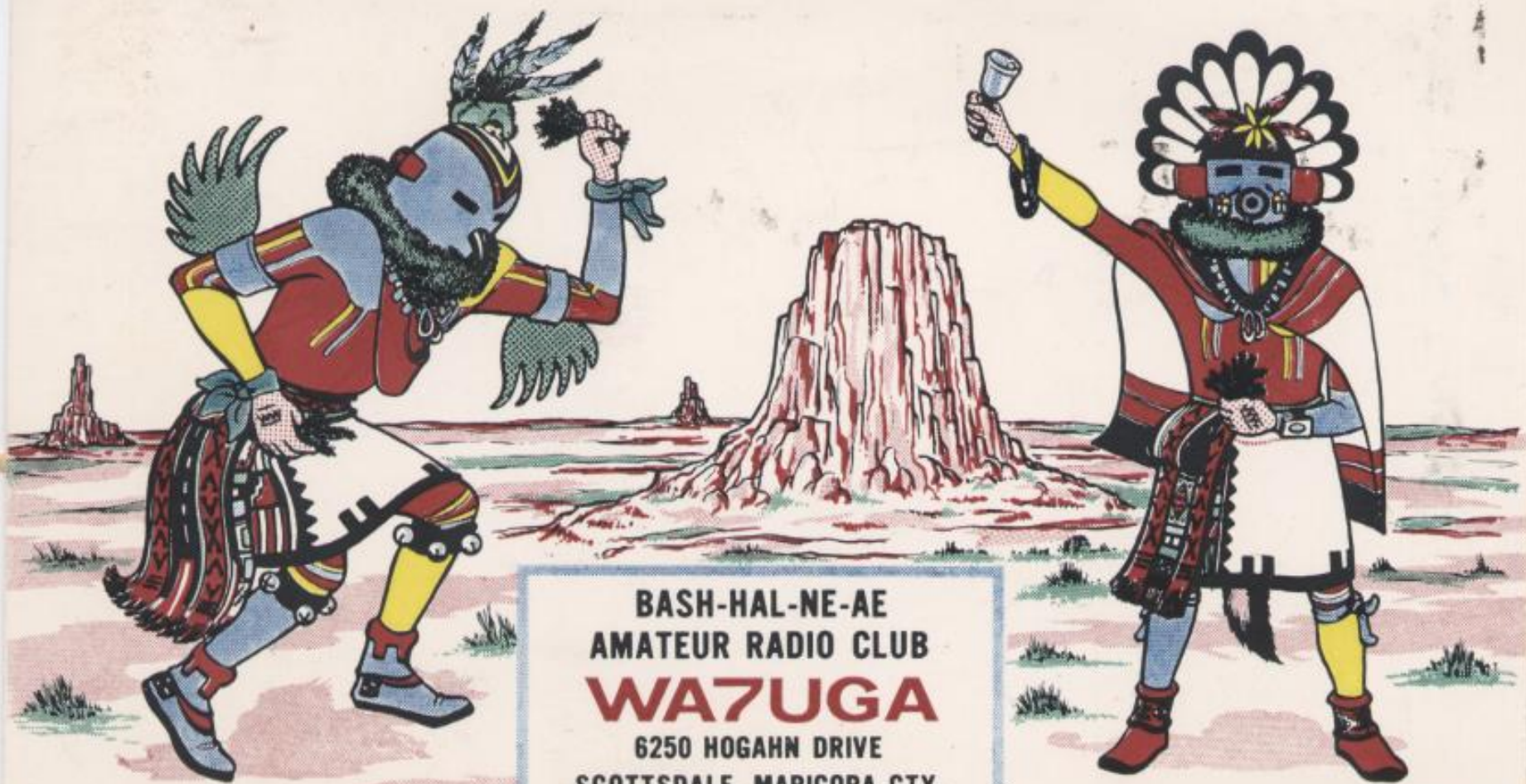
Before assuming operating duties, always read and initial the Notices to Operators. The notices are intended to keep you informed about changes in procedures, operations, schedules, etc. After you have been relieved of your duties or when you secure the station, be sure to file an Operator's Resume, including such information as (1) each frequency used, (2) comment about transmission and reception on each frequency used, (3) include time (in GMT) of each item in report, (4) report anything unusual that happened on a particular frequency, and (5) be sure to report, in detail, any malfunction in the equipment and anything you did to correct the malfunction.

  
Herman Middleton  
Coordinator

Welcome  
from  
Herman  
Middleton  
AF7TPG

# Some memories

- 1000<sup>th</sup> phone patch for the month – R-390
- Barry's morning swims
- Wall photos - Jack Kennedy & General Lemay
- Trust – Baby book, Full set of AZ Highway
- My son visiting "Uncle Barry"
- Kachinas; great views from shack
- Fireplace and refrigerator
- Time Magazine covers
- Christmas Star on the house
- Ray Baker & Tijuana Taco



BASH-HAL-NE-AE  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
**WA7UGA**  
6250 HOGAHN DRIVE  
SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA CTY,  
ARIZONA (85251) U.S.A.

BY BUD MOORE - SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA





# The War - a map

Operations included a wide area:

South Viet Nam  
Laos  
Cambodia  
Thailand  
North Viet Nam?

