

James Forrestal, first Secretary of Defense, in a memorandum dated March 24, 1949, transferred the Army-Air Force I. and E. Division to the Office of the Secretary of Defense under his Assistant Secretary for Manpower, renaming it Armed Forces Information and Education with essentially the same mission and responsibilities, but now for all the Armed Forces. On April 9, 1952, the title of Office of Armed Forces Information and Education was established.

On July 14, 1961, the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education was abolished and formed into two directorates: the Directorate for Education Programs which is concerned with formal academic training and the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education. Both directorates are under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Education).

*a. Radio and television history*

The development of unofficial Army radio activities at the beginning of World War II foreshadowed the eventual pattern of program distribution.

At Fort Greely on Kodiak Island in Alaska, American soldiers succeeded in putting a low-powered station on the air in December 1941 which eased morale problems in an area where shortwave reception was nonexistent.

By the spring of 1942 all existing program material had been exhausted, and the resourceful servicemen dispatched letters to Hollywood stars requesting programs of any nature but the actors were unable to ship them because of security regulations. Undaunted, the actors called Washington and asked the War Department for permission to ship their programs to the Army station at Kodiak. This was Washington's first inkling that the Army owned a radio station in Alaska.

A second Alaskan station also started broadcasting in December 1941 at Nome.

The first coordinated efforts by the military started with the issuance of radio receivers and turntables to the troops. Included with these were transcribed half hour programs from the various radio networks. Under the aegis of the Army's Morale Services Division the Armed Forces Radio Service was born. Because of its proximity to talent and mass recording facilities, Los Angeles was selected in the summer of 1942 as headquarters. The station at Kodiak Island was the charter station in a chain of 177 outlets during World War II.

AFRS also used Office of War Information (OWI) shortwave transmitters on both coasts to beam programs around the world. AFRS-New York was started in 1943 sharing office space and studios with OWI. The programming from both field branches concentrated on material of an immediate nature such as news, sports, and special events. By combining transcriptions from Los Angeles with shortwave broadcasts, the local outlets were able to present their military audience with a quality of broadcasting comparable to the best commercial stations in the United States.

When the war ended, AFRS continued to serve those still on duty abroad. With fewer potential listeners, however, fewer stations were needed, and by 1950 the number of outlets was reduced to 45.

At the outbreak of fighting in Korea in 1950, the number of stations increased to 79.