

## VOA Today – 2018

Prepared for docents at the National Voice of America  
Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester, Ohio

Voice of America (VOA) is the largest U.S. international broadcaster, providing news and information with content for Digital, Cable, TV & Radio platforms, Satellite and Social Media. VOA focus on the Americas, Africa, East Asia, South Central Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

In addition to VOA's many media outlets you can receive two email newsletters and updates from Broadcast Board of Governors.

1. [Today@VOA](#) (daily informing, engaging & connecting the people of the world)
2. [VOA Extremism Watch](#) (monitors news related to extremism around the world, an in-depth look at the stories behind the headlines to give audiences what most Western media do not report)
3. [VOA News and Information](#) BBG

[Podcast](#) in a wide variety of topics

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019

40+ languages translated today

Own 30 FM frequencies today

10 Shortwave Transmitters world-wide

3,000 Affiliate Stations (Satellite, Cable, FM and AM Broadcast Band 1180 kHz)

40 reporters today

15 News Bureaus (five in the USA)

Using 4 Satellites with a total of 10 channels

Weekly audience of 236 million people

Radio Martí on the air May 20, 1985. Office of Cuba Broadcasting was established in 1990 to oversee all programming broadcast to Cuba on the Voice of America's Radio Martí and TV Martí. Still on the air today.



**VOA Firewall:** An essential guarantee of the journalistic credibility of U.S. International Media content is the "firewall" enshrined in the BBG's enabling legislation, the U.S. International Broadcasting Act. The firewall prohibits interference by U.S. government officials, including the BBG's Chief Executive Officer and the VOA Director, in the objective, independent reporting of news by all BBG networks, including VOA, thereby safeguarding the ability of BBG journalists to develop content that reflects the highest professional standards of journalism, free of political interference. BBG reforms contained in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017 maintained the longstanding statutory firewall language protecting the professional independence of VOA and all other BBG journalists. The firewall is critical to ensure that VOA and all other BBG journalists and editors can make the final decisions on what stories to cover, and how they are covered.

**U.S. Agency for Global Media USAGM** (Named changed Aug. 22, 2018)

Formerly the United States Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) including the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB)

**Consist of:**

Voice of America (VOA)

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty RFE/RL

Office of Cuba Broadcasting (Television and Radio Martí)

Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN)

Radio Free Asia (RFA)

## **Not part of the USAGM**

**American Forces Network** (AFN) AFN Europe AFN Pacific, is the broadcast service operated by the United States Armed Forces' American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS, commonly pronounced "A-farts" for its entertainment and command internal information networks worldwide.

### **VOA During the War**

52 languages, 1,200 hours per week

26 news bureaus throughout the world write an average of 180 news stories every day.

Staff: 3,074 Full-time permanent positions, including 662 foreign national employees.

VOA HQ = Washing DC, 34 studios, moved from NY in 1954

Owned by Crosley from 1944 – 1965

1965 – Today – US Government

Bethany on-air 2-24-1942 in German language 79 days after the United States entered World War II. Off-air, November 14,1995, Staff of 45 including 3 control operators

Greenville, North Carolina; Bethany, Ohio; and Delano, California.

29 shortwave transmitters in the United States

74 shortwave and mediumwave transmitters at 13 relay stations overseas

103 VOA transmitters worldwide

22 directional antennas. 14 rhombic in groups of 2 or 3, and 8 curtain antennas.

232 manually-operated antenna switches connect 6 transmitters to any of 22 antennas

1000 wood poles ranging in height up to150 feet

Budget: Approximately \$251 million for operating expenses in FY 1993 and an additional \$104 million for modernization of the Bureau's broadcast facilities

Source: [VOA Public Relations](#) [Mission and Values](#)