**Volunteer Monitor Program 1st Quarter 2021 Report**

**Date: May 1, 2021**

**To: David Minster, ARRL CEO**

**From: Riley Hollingsworth, Program Coordinator**

**Date: May 1, 2021**

**For the First Quarter of 2021, VMs reported monitoring hours as follows:**

 **HF 4,686 VHF/UHF/Other: 4/772**

**More important that total hours reported, however, is the number of open cases and the rate of closure. Rate of closure is tied to how we are perceived. We do not want to be perceived as the “Band Police”. Amateurs must ”buy in” to this program for it to succeed. For that reason, we have attempted to resolve a lot of cases informally by e mail or phone call, not just Advisory Notices. However, all amateurs MUST understand that the FCC will take any case not resolved by the VM program.**

**There are 219 closed cases and 145 open cases. Many of the open cases, however, are in a “hold” pattern because we have contacted the person involved and have reason to believe that the problem is or will be solved; or they are “one-offs” and will not require attention unless repeated. We will review those cases in the coming months but expect more than half to be closed. There are a few dozen “inadequate” cases referred by VMs and not counted, but these will be explained and used for training purposes in upcoming webinars in which the FCC has agreed to participate.**

**We have been able to resolve all the cases referred to us by the FCC. The 75 Meter interference to the WARFA net on the West Coast continues to be a major aggravation. In May, this case will be referred to FCC for radio direction finding assistance. We have issued numerous Advisory Notices but either they are being ignored or our information was not precise. It is now apparent that some of those interfering are using remote stations on a rotating basis.**

**The other MAJOR aggravation, that of constant obscenities and deliberate jamming on 3860, 3927 and 7200 East of the Mississippi in the evenings, is largely resolved now. The FCC’s block of a renewal application based on our information about the licensee concerning obscenities and deliberate interference, and the subsequent withdrawal of that application for renewal, has been a major force multiplier for the program. The FCC had said that it would not accept obscenity cases but made an exception in this one.**

**Two VMs constantly monitor FT8 and have developed programs correlated with QRZ database in which they are alerted if a licensee operates out of the licensed frequency range or if the license has expired, but those hours are not counted in our monitoring totals. The number of such incidents was around a dozen and were dealt with. The good news is that the last month of the Quarter, there were no reports.**

**Of major concern is that the FCC will remain closed until July or later, reacting only to safety of life cases. Confidentially, however, the Director of Region 3 has said that he will do all he can to help us when the WARFA radio direction finding request is submitted. We plan to ask for radio direction finding in California, Arizona, Washing and Oregon—all of which fall under the jurisdiction of Region 3. We think that there are about 6 operators involved in the interference and that some of the interference is being coordinated on the internet and includes old recordings of uninvolved operators not aware of the interference.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH**

**Coordinator, Volunteer Monitor Program**