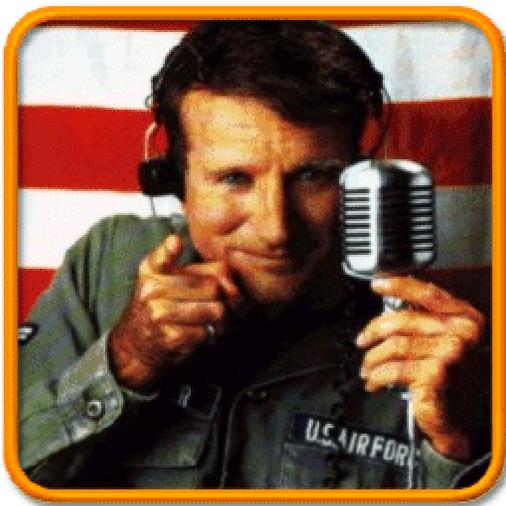


AFRTS / AFN Historical Personalities of Note

Star Spangled Radio/TV has had lots of personages who made significant contributions to informing, educating and entertaining the troops.

"Goooooooooooooooooooood morning... Vietnam!" The wakeup call for those who were already up since 0400.

Probably the most famous AFRTS disk jockey of all time was Adrian Cronauer... No, not this one



That is Robin Williams in his over-the-top Oscar-nominated performance in the 1987 comedy film set in 1965. The movie was based on the true story of Cronauer, a nonconformist with a wicked sense of humor who is transferred from Crete to Saigon. Outrageous and way-funny, Cronauer speaks in accents, creates characters, pokes fun at everyone - including the President – and spins banned rock and roll records. While his antics amuse the masses and ingratiate him to the boots-in-the-mud troops, they also put him in hot water with some superior officers, particularly Lt. Steven Hawk (Bruno Kirby) and his NCOIC, both who would prefer that the radio show be censored, sanitized and completely controversial. Williams improvised much of the of the comedy used in the show. The comedian's supporting cast included Forest Whitaker, Robert Wuhl, Tun Thanh Tran, Kirby, Noble Willingham, J.T. Walsh (as a likeable General) and Richard Portnow.

Speaking at an American Force Network reunion in 2004 and at a more recent DINFOS graduation, the real Cronauer said a lot of the film and dialogue was fictional, but did play some old airchecks that showed he was also uproariously funny.

This is a bio of the real guy.

Biography of Adrian Cronauer

Former U.S. Air Force sergeant Adrian Cronauer co-authored the original story for the major motion picture, *Good Morning, Vietnam!* In that film, Cronauer was portrayed—loosely—by Robin Williams whose performance was nominated for an Academy Award. A subsequent special program on National Public Radio about the role of military radio in Vietnam earned Cronauer a 1992 Ohio State Award and two 1991 Gold Medals from the New York Radio Festival.



He is a life member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, the VFW and VietNow. He serves as a national officer of the Knights Templar, is an honorary Kentucky Colonel, and a member of the Australian Returned & Services League. Recently, he was awarded the Order of St. Maurice by the U.S. Infantry Reserve. He spends much of his spare time speaking throughout the country before veterans and military groups espousing patriotism and flag protection and averaging fifteen to twenty such engagements per year.

In 1992, he was invited to Australia to participate in the dedication of that country's Vietnam Forces National Memorial. While there, he emceed a four-hour, nationally televised, outdoor concert featuring Aussie entertainers who went to Vietnam during the 60's and 70's to entertain the troops from "Down Under."

A popular after-dinner speaker and lecturer, Cronauer periodically appears as a guest on radio and television talk shows, including NBC-TV's *Today*; the PBS series, *Freedom Speaks*; *Hennity & Colmes* on the Fox News Channel, and frequent appearances on ABC-TV's former late night talk show, *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*; also, numerous stints on NBC Radio's *Jim Bohanan Show*; and the *Oliver North* and *G. Gordon Liddy* radio programs. His commentaries have been featured in many major newspapers throughout the country and on the NPR Radio Network.

Previously a senior partner with the five-lawyer Washington DC firm of Burch & Cronauer, he is now Special Assistant to the Director of the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office. He received his Doctor of Law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was Special Projects Editor of the *UPenn Law Review*. He also holds a masters degree in Media Studies from the New School for Social Research in New York City; his undergraduate studies were at the University of Pittsburgh and the American University in Washington DC. He clerked at the Federal Communications Commission for Commissioner Patricia Diaz Dennis and was honored with the FCC's Special

Service Award.

Cronauer's law practice concentrated in information and communications law and included extensive representation of radio stations, a satellite radio network, cable systems, and clients involved in newly emerging technologies including wireless cable and personal communications services. He was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Federal Communications Law Journal* and among his serious published works are *The Fairness Doctrine: A Solution In Search of a Problem*, *Federal Communications Law Journal*, Oct. 1994; and *Copyright and Reproduction Rights*, *Art & Design Magazine*, July/Aug. 1993. He is a member of the Federal Communications Bar Association, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

He has served as a member of the Virginia Public Broadcasting Board, on the Arlington County (Virginia) Cable TV Advisory Committee, and the Board of Governors of the New School for Social Research in New York City. He served two terms as a trustee of the Virginia War Memorial and is a former member of the national board of the Armed Forces Broadcasters Association and the board of the National Vietnam & Gulf War Veterans Coalition.

Prior to turning to the law, Cronauer spent seven years in New York City voicing television and radio commercials. Before that, he owned his own advertising agency, managed a radio station, was program director of a television station, and a TV news anchorman. He has taught broadcasting at the university level and is the author of a textbook on radio & TV announcing, now in use at many colleges and universities.

He and his wife, the former Jeane Steppe, have two adult children and five grandchildren ranging in age from fifteen to nineteen.

Max Floyd (the guy on the left)



Do you remember Murray the K, Alan Freed and high energy?

Do you remember rock'n'roll radio?

Do you remember rock'n'roll radio?

(The Ramones)

If would have been easy to write Max into the above lyrics, along with some others like Dewey Phillips, Joe Niagra, Kasey Kasem, Hy Litt or Wolfman Jack. Max, after all, is a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame broadcaster.

He, like Cronauer, was a controversial DJ as a morning man while in Munich, Germany. He was R&R all the way, wore his hair in a modified non-white-sidewall, but not quite a ducktail style, played songs that were not on a play list as supplied by AFRTS, referred to his studio attire as, "My wardrobe this morning supplied by Army Quartermaster Corps," and a lot of irreverent stuff that was "Cronaueresque," long before Cronauer.

His Rock & Roll Hall honor came because he was one of the few who had foresight and was on the cutting edge of the move to have rock music move to FM.

The Texan is currently on Kansas City's 99.7 KYYS-FM radio station and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the opening ceremonies at the recent "Lest We Forget...Freedom Endures" event that was held on the campus of Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo.

Here is what the short bio said about Max and his military involvement:

Mr. Floyd began his radio career in 1957 at San Antonio's KONO-AM and served his country in the U.S. Army from December 1961 to December 1964. Upon completion of his basic training, he attended the U.S. Army Information School at Fort Slocum, N.Y. After a short stint with the Radio and Television Division at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., he was transferred to Munich, Germany, where he anchored the American Forces Network morning show until his honorable discharge in December 1964. For his outstanding performance, he was promoted to "Specialist Five."

After the service, Mr. Floyd worked in radio stations in Denver, Kansas City, Chicago and Atlanta. Since 1983, he has commanded "Max's Rock and Roll Army," at Kansas City's 99.7 KYYS-FM radio with the popular morning show of "Max, Tanna and Moffit."

Here are a few more, with the following broadcast-types having been inducted into the U.S. Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame:



Sample of PA Hall of Fame plaque.

Trent Christman's bio as put up on the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame induction program for the Class of 2004



Mr. Trent Christman

Catalyst for change in AFN Europe Radio and Television

From his early days as a Private First Class at the Armed Forces Radio Service Jungle Network, Hollandia, New Guinea, to his final assignment as Deputy Director of Programming for Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, Mr. Trent Christman brought talent, wisdom and common sense to his 40-year career in military broadcasting.

Christman's wisdom and common sense would assist him as he arrived at the Armed Forces Network Europe Headquarters, Frankfurt, Germany in 1964. It quickly became his mission to change a radio philosophy that had not changed in years and was a carbon copy of pre-television radio. Times had changed, yet the programming had not, younger listener Soldiers had different listening habits in a new era.

Under his direction, outdated songs and outdated programs were removed from the schedule or moved from primetime. Locally produced shows were expanded, production techniques were updated, and command information announcements used more stateside production approaches. Christman knew AFN radio had to remain contemporary and consistent with the listening habits and needs of the younger listeners.

In the mid 1970's, Christman took his talents to AFN Europe Television. He led a remodeling effort, developing new policies, new equipment recommendations, and staffing appointments in anticipation of the move to Frankfurt in 1976. Frankfurt would be on the air with a state-of-the art color studio, leaving behind outdated equipment, old studios and a black and white signal. Christman developed the station look and logos for the sets, for live local programming.

Located at the new studios, Christman oversaw the development of the command information program "Gasthaus" which remained a feature of AFN TV's local programming for over 20 years. No, local command information broadcast, in the history of AFRTS, has received more recognition or awards.

Christman retired in 1988, and he lives in Las Vegas, Nevada

Colonel Cranston's bio as put up on the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame induction program for the Class of 2003



COL Robert Cranston

Father of AFRTS Satellite Network

Nominated by: Mr. Robert J. Harlan

From a Captain at Armed Forces Network Europe to Director, American Forces Information Services, Robert Cranston spent more than four decades in various Army information and public affairs assignments as an officer and civilian.

Beginning as an Executive Officer in 1945 with AFN, Paris, Cranston planned and organized the expansion of the network to Germany after VE day. From Germany to Washington D.C., to Belgium, Cranston continued to coordinate and direct national radio, TV, photo and newsreel activities. As Chief, Radio-TV, Pictorial Section, Public Information Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Cranston was a pioneer in Allied commands. He directed a campaign to sell the NATO concept through audio-visual media in member nations.

Commanding the American Forces Network Europe from 1960 to 1964 Cranston recognized how important radio was to both American's and the millions of Europeans who were judging America by what they heard. Under Cranston, AFN was listened to by a greater number of citizens than German radio networks. His primary audience was military, he never forgot this, and special emphasis was put on the News Operation. Newscasts were frequent, timely and accurate.

A working lifetime in public affairs/public information allowed Cranston upon his appointment to Director, American Forces Information Service to plan, implement and lead the AFRTS system into the satellite era. With a transmission system in place, he initiated and negotiated for "no cost broadcast rights" saving the government \$150-million per year in programming costs. Cranston can truly be called the "Father of the AFRTS Satellite Network."

Cranston retired in March 1973 and continued serving his nation as a civilian. He retired a second time as Director, American Forces Information Services, March 1983. Cranston lives in Huddleston, VA.



Robert J. Harlan's bio as put up on the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame induction program for the Class of 2004

*Served as AFN, Europe, PD for 18 years.
1943-1986*

Nominated by: SGM Mark A. Van Treuren

Robert J. Harlan began his 38-year association with the Army as an aviation cadet in 1943. He attended the fourth class of the new Army Information School at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., and was assigned to Armed Forces Network, Europe, in 1949.

After a four year military tour at AFN, during which he climbed to studio supervisor, Harlan converted to civilian status and was promoted to chief of network production. Under his management AFN expanded from a seven- to a 10-station network in Germany, Holland, Belgium and England. After assignments in Kaiserslautern and Munich, Harlan returned to Frankfurt in 1961 as chief of production, serving there until his 1964 appointment as program director of AFN France. He returned to Germany as deputy PD of the network from 1964-1968. In 1968 Harlan began an 18-year assignment as the network's PD and ranking civilian, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. That same year he received the first award of the Armed Forces Broadcasters Association Award for Broadcasting Excellence — an award which has been renamed "The Harlan Award." Harlan lives in Cape Coral, Fla

OBITUARIES

provided by  The Gainesville Sun

Robert James Harlan
(posted 2005)

Robert James Harlan of Jacksonville, and formerly of Gainesville, died Sunday at Regents Park Nursing Home in Jacksonville. He was 77.

Mr. Harlan was born in Gainesville and was a graduate of Gainesville High School and

the University of Florida.

His 38-year association with the military began as an Army Air Corps cadet in 1943. He served during World War II and the Korean War.

In 1968, he began an 18-year career as a network program director, and he had an award named after him, "The Harlan Award," by the Armed Forces Broadcasters Association.

He earned the Distinguished Service Cross from the German government and the Order of Aaron and Hur from the Army chief of chaplains. In 2000, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame at the Pentagon.

Last month, he attended the AFN Europe 60th Anniversary Reunion in Baltimore.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pearl Barrow Harlan.

Survivors include a brother, William E. Harlan of Gainesville.

Arrangements by Roberts Funeral Home of Ocala.

Colonel Breen's 2002 bio as put up on the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame induction program for the Class of 2004



Col. James H. Breen

Created Soldiers Television Magazine Program

Nominated by: Col. Richard H. Breen

Col. James H. Breen was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1956 and served on active duty until his retirement in 1981. Breen, an artilleryman and aviator, served in a variety of command and staff assignments including two Pentagon tours. During the Vietnam war, Breen was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, and from this post was selected as the executive officer on the Department of the Army's investigation into the My Lai Massacre.

Breen went on to become the battalion commander, division artillery executive officer and secretary of the general staff for Sixth Army. After completion of the Army War College and his Master's Degree in Mass Communications, Breen fully expected his next assignment would be with the artillery. Instead, Breen found himself in a new field at the Pentagon, serving as the first Chief of Army Community Relations. This was followed by an assignment as the Chief of Army Internal Information.

While serving at the Pentagon, Breen planned, engineered and developed the

Soldiers Television Magazine Program. It was Breen's idea to use the newly developed video technology to create a television program based on the popular Soldiers Magazine. This program was the forbearer of today's Soldiers Radio and Television Service in Alexandria, Va. This program was launched to all Army installations worldwide and broadcast on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. This was the first timely video product unique to the Army generated from the states to the overseas networks.

Breen continued to pursue the new technology and incorporated it into all aspects of the Army's Command Information Program, focusing on the use of timely radio and television products.

Breen retired in 1981 and continued to work in public affairs in the corporate world, serving as the Director of Public Affairs for Los Alamos National Laboratories and Director of Public Affairs and Director of Human Resources, EG&G Rocky Flats.

He lives in Westminster, Colo.



Col. Thomas H. Lewis

Father of American Military Broadcasting

Nominated by: SGM (ret) Mark A. Van Truen

Col. Thomas H. Lewis was commissioned a Major in the Army on May 26, 1942 and on the same day the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) was chartered. Lewis had been an advertising executive before World War II. Lewis was familiar with the broadcasting and motion picture industry and its leaders. His work in radio audience research had earned him a name.

"You've got your man, fellows- A man who asks for God's help and gets it." Legendary film director, Frank Capra.

The War Department officially established AFRS with the mission of providing programming, shortwave service and broadcast equipment for U.S. military locations overseas. AFRS was to give service members a "touch of home and combat Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose." Los Angeles was selected as the first headquarters for AFRS. The organization was located at the Fox Movie Studio at Sunset and Western Avenues.

Lewis drew up plans for a global communication operation, which were acceptable to the joint army and navy committee. He returned to Los Angeles to put them into action. Having established his headquarters in the old Twentieth Century building, he hired a group of talented men to carry out his plans. Next he determined the listening preferences of his audience through a survey. Lewis also made a trip to Alaska to

find out first hand what the soldiers in the field needed
With the overwhelming support of the entertainment industry and dedicated military members, Lewis quickly turned AFRS into a professional broadcast unit. Many young radio entertainers got their start with AFRS during WWII.

In early 1945, at the height of WWII, there were about 300 AFRS radio stations worldwide. The end of the war brought considerable reductions to the AFRS system. By 1949, only 60 AFRS stations remained in operation. Today Armed Forces Radio and Television Service broadcasts in 177 countries reaching an estimated audience of 800,000.

Lewis died in 1988.

Others of Note:

Soldier **Rick Scarry** was at AFN Frankfurt in the mid-'60s as host of the highly-acclaimed "Weekend World" show. He left the military for the West Coast and radio and then dropped out of that medium to appear on 60 television shows, plays, and in 14 feature films including, "Space Cowboys," "Wag The Dog," "Naked Gun 33 1/3," "Addams Family Values," "The Great White Hype."

Here is Rick as Dr. Browning on "That '70s Show."



Learn a lot more about Scarry by accessing the internet.

John Sheahan was in China covering events there for CBS-TV when the massacre at Tienanmen Square took place. Since retired, he had an exciting career.

Going back farther in AFRS history, there were a lot of names from Hollywood that donned the trappings of the military broadcaster:

Mickey Rooney

Brodrick Crawford

Tom Poston

Nick Clooney, George's dad

Bill Boyd, who was a country jock at AFN-Europe, before retired, produced records for a lot of country stars and becoming president of the Country Music Association.