Subject: [MARS_Winlink] CODAR Interference on 4-8 mhz

Ever hear a repeating swish swish sort of signal on top of some of our MARS or SHARES frequencies in the 4-8 mhz range, and possibly the 60 meter amateur frequencies? The odds are it's something called CODAR. See
http://www.codar.com/intro_hf_radar.shtml and
http://www.arrl.org/news/investigation-by-arrl-oos-researchers-leads-to-resolution-of-60-meter-interference and http://www.southgatearc.org/news/july2011/codar_radar_on_24mhz.htm

The odds are that this is caused by a HF radar signal used to measure wave height, detect tsunamis, etc, wherever there are large bodies of water. It's especially prevalent on the coasts, but may also show up inland. This radar signal is pretty destructive to other communications services if it should fall on their frequencies. I myself am plagued with very strong CODAR signals in the 4-5 mhz bands even though I'm a couple hundred miles inland from the coast. I live about 15-20 miles from Puget Sound and unfortunately CODAR seems to be well entrenched. There have been confirmed reports of CODAR signals being transmitted on higher bands too. With propagation improving, it's probable that a few watts of CODAR could be heard all across the planet. The bad thing about CODAR is that it uses fairly high power and good antennas. That means it can be propagated long distances. If you live inland from the coasts and away from any large bodies of water, the odds are that you may also be plagued with interference from CODAR too.

If you hear interfering signals similar to CODAR on MARS/SHARES frequencies, you are urged to file official interference reports according to your service's communications instructions. Recordings would most likely be very helpful in pinning down the type of signal causing the interference. I know that some amateur frequencies were receiving severe interference, which was later resolved after submission of complaints through appropriate channels. In my area it's very difficult to use 4 & 5 mhz frequencies as they are jammed up with loud CODAR every hour 24/7. I hope this has helped to clear up some interference issues in your area now that the signal has been identified.

Best regards,

Gary, AFA0IU / AFF0WA / AFE0DM / K7EK