

# The ARRL Letter Excerpt

\*\*\*\*\*  
The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 22, No. 11  
March 14, 2003  
\*\*\*\*\*

## IN THIS EDITION:

- \* +Hams help save young burn victim
- \* +FCC beefs up requirements to submit truthful statements
- \* +Astronaut fits in same-day ham radio chats on both sides of the Atlantic
- \* +Will ham radio have to shut down in the event of war?
- \* +FCC probes Michigan repeater
- \* +Legislative hearing set on California ham antenna bill
- \* Solar Update
- \* IN BRIEF:

This weekend on the radio

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration  
ARRL to sponsor emergency communications course seminar in Colorado  
+Amateur high-speed Internet link used during shuttle debris recovery  
Florida ARES/RACES groups takes part in simulated plane crash exercise

Missionary killed in Philippines blast was a ham  
Bill Pierpont, N0HFF, SK

Digital Communications Conference issues first call for papers  
Space symposium issues call for papers  
New York antenna bill reported out of Senate committee

=====

## ==>WILL HAM RADIO BE SHUT DOWN IF WAR IS DECLARED?

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio in the event that war breaks out in the Middle East. The short answer is "no."

Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio was shut down was during World War II, although the FCC continued to give Amateur Radio examinations.

While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use. The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF allocations with the US government.

=====