

Date 7/6

### ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. <u>T. Engle</u>	<u>2/12</u>	
2. <u>MLH, GE/SES</u>		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
<input type="checkbox"/> As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
<input type="checkbox"/> Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
<input type="checkbox"/> Comment	Investigate	Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination	Justify	

**REMARKS**

Distribute: 7/6/87

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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
	Phone No.

SES-130-87  
26 June 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Analysis Branch, ADD/ESG/FBIS

FROM: Laird Steinberg  
Systems Engineering Support, GE

SUBJECT: Field Bureau Automation ERB Meeting Report

1. An FBA Engineering Review Board was held on 25 June 1987 at 1300. See Attachment A for the list of attendees. See Attachment B for the agenda.

2. [ ] opened the meeting and reviewed the minutes of the last FBA ERB meeting.

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a. Bill Stanbridge has received the LEC training handout on bureau DR Procedures and will formalize the FBA ERB DR Procedures.

b. The draft FBA CM Policy has been reviewed by C/ESG. Bill will incorporate the changes recommended by C/ESG.

c. The numbering of DRs and RFCs prepared by the FBA ERB will include the digraph of the affected bureau and a sequential number beginning with 901 (ie., DR-AU-901-87, RFC-AU-901-87).

d. *The FBIS Security Officer's* [ ] bureau PC Security procedures have been received and reviewed. [ ] will work with ~~Ed~~ to finalize the procedures. [ ] *the S.O.*

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e. The BACH 1.3 software and documentation will be pouched to each bureau, except Vienna and Hong Kong, on 29 June 1987. Write Now 1.51 software will be included in this shipment. BACH 1.3a is part of the FBA-1 baseline and LEC will need to submit an RFC to change the baseline at the FBA-1 bureaus to BACH 1.3b prior to August.

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3. Twila reviewed the status of open DRs. See Attachment C for the DR Status Report.

a. DR-SK-001-87 BACH Capitalization Errors

The BACH 2.0 software currently under development will correct the problem reported by Seoul. BACH 2.0 software will be released approximately 30 ~~October~~ 1987.

*September*

b. DR-SK-003-86 Copal Printer

LOGS has shipped the new Epson printer to replace the Copal printer. No response has been received regarding arrival of the printer.  will check on the shipment if no word has been received by 30 June. DR remains open pending arrival of the printer at Seoul.

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c. DR-MB-003-86 IBM PC Disk Problem

The ERB is waiting for notification that the bureau has received the diagnostic software, reformatting instructions and replacement disk. Nick will check on the shipment if no word has been received by 30 June. DR remains open pending arrival and results of reformatting efforts.

d. DR-AU-034-86 Comscribe Printers

Vienna would like to know if Comscribe printers could be used on the FBA-1 system LAN. The ERB has determined that Comscribe printers are compatible with the FBA-1 LAN. The ERB has designated the Okidata 192 with the paper roll and serial interface as the standard FBA-1 commo printer. DR is closed

e. DR-AU-044-86 LIPS-10 Laser Printer

No further problems with the LIPS-10 laser printer have been reported. LEC repairs were apparently effective. LEC will be delivering Data Products laser printers to the bureaus, beginning with the installation of the FBA-1 system at Bangkok. The LIPS-10 laser printers at Vienna and Hong Kong will eventually be returned to FBIS Headquarters for use at Reston, and replaced with Data Products laser printers. Nick will send a message to advise Vienna and Hong Kong. DR is closed.

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f. DR-AU-001-87 FBA TRANSMIT

Vienna has requested opening a 2nd transmit port in order to send channel checks and keep the alt-route circuit open. DR remains open pending preparation of an RFC and impact evaluation by LEC.

g. DR-AU-005-87 File Server Disk Space

Vienna has a problem with Press Agency files, (many of which do not contain valid messages), over-filling the file server disk space. Regardless of the length of the message, a full 4 kbyte segment is used for each message. As a result, the file server disk space will fill up within 4 days versus the planned 7 day storage capability. The minimum 4 kbyte block size can not be changed. Temporarily, the solution is to purge the files more frequently. However, this process requires manual review of each file and is time consuming. The ERB has approved a LEC recommendation to expand the minimum amount of unrecognizable material that comes after a valid SOM and before the next EOM or SOM from 10 characters to 240 characters, and to provide a variable purge for press agency data. LEC will complete development and testing of the required software and documentation changes by 7 July 1987. Twila will send a message to Vienna to verify the FBA-2 requirement for only 7 days on line storage of outgoing messages.

h. DR-AU-007-87 Intermittent Operation of Yugo IBM PCs

Vienna has had 2 IBM failures. The ERB has decided not to upgrade the old IBM PCs at the other bureaus. IBM PCs will be left as stand alones at the bureaus or shipped to FBIS Headquarters. LEC is shipping Victor PCs to Vienna to replace the IBM PCs on the FBA-1 LAN. DR is closed.

i. DR-AU-008-87 BTA Items Continue to Break-up

Vienna has experienced a re-occurrence of BTA items breaking up. Vienna changed the SOM code to "ATA \_" and corrected the problem. DR is closed.

j. DR-AU-009-87 Change Press Agency Circuit to RS-232

Vienna has requested an upgrade to their commo line interface. Specifically, Vienna would like to change the press agency circuit interface to RS-232. The ERB has assigned the DR to FED for investigation.

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k. DR-AU-010-87 Video Boards

Vienna has experienced a video board failure. LEC has notified Victor of continuing problems with video board failures. Victor is changing suppliers and will provide new boards to LEC within 30 days. LEC will test the new boards and send them to Vienna. Vienna will return the old video boards to LEC for shipment to Victor.

l. DR-AU-901-87 Comm problems with Craughton switch

Vienna continues to experience a problem with garbled TIs on messages while using the DTS circuit between Vienna and Craughton. This problem results in a large number of ZFXs at Vienna. Scott Carpenter is preparing a formal DR to submit to the ERB.

4. Twila reported on the status of the FBA-1 System at Vienna.

a. Vienna has been authorized to purchase the voltage regulator. A surge protector is also required for each PC. LEC is preparing to send the surge protectors by 1 July 1987. The power problems Vienna has experienced should be resolved once the voltage regulator and surge protectors are installed.

b. The possible future RFCs to the FBA-1 system from Vienna presented by LEC at the last ERB are being evaluated by Scott Carpenter.

c. Scott presented a technical evaluation of suggestions received from Vienna. ~~See attachment D.~~ The evaluation will be discussed at the next ERB.

d. The question of leaving a modem at the FBA-1 bureaus after the LEC installation and training teams leave has been evaluated with respect to the bureau PC security procedures being developed. The ERB has decided that the possible security problems outweigh any benefits and that the LEC team will regard the modem as an installation tool which they will return to Plainfield. Twila will send a message to all FBA-1 bureaus regarding LEC use of the modem only for installation and test of the FBA-1 LAN system.

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5. Twila also reported on the status of Key West.
  - a. The failed monitor presumably has been returned to LEC. As of now, no word on its location has been received.
  - b. Key West has requested Headquarters approval to buy additional printers with bureau funds. Key West has also requested an ERB recommendation on which printers to buy. The ERB recommends the Okidata 192 *PLUS*.
  - c. The problems with power quality in Haiti were underestimated. Key West will provide a small UPS or line conditioner to alleviate the problem.
  - f. Scott Carpenter will prepare the RFC to the Key West system baseline. This RFC will propose removing the ASCII to Baudot converter from the Key West commo circuit when FBIS Headquarters transitions from the MIDAS system to the AFS system.
6. Twila reported on the status of the installation at Hong Kong.
  - a. The hardware and LAN installation is complete. Jack and Ting are still investigating the commo circuits. No problems have been found.
  - b.  is scheduled to arrive in Hong Kong 29 June 1987.  is leaving for Hong Kong on 6 July 1987.
  - c. LEC had no problem obtaining a signal analyzer. The Hong Kong System Administrator has been identified. The installation team has been meeting with the Bureau Chief everyday and a status report will be sent at the end of each week.
  - d. Hong Kong has not yet received their FBA-1 printers.
  - e. IOC for Hong Kong is expected to be 17 July 1987.
  - f. Information on the status of the Hong Kong installation is also being sent to Bangkok, which is the next FBA-1 bureau

*of Okinawa*

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7. Open Discussion covered the following topics:

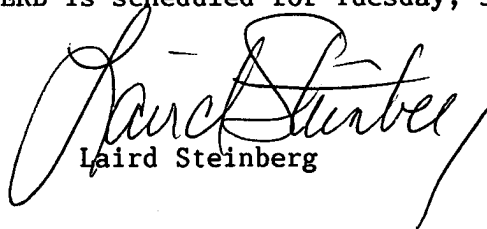
a. LEC will send a power engineer and a communications specialist to Bangkok to verify power and communications interface requirements prior to the FBA-1 system installation.

b. The Bangkok FBA-1 equipment is scheduled to be shipped from LEC to Headquarters on 21 July 1987. If the laser printers for Bangkok have not arrived and been tested at LEC by 21 July, this shipment will be made without them. The printers will be shipped separately if necessary.

c. Bangkok has notified the ERB that the bureau floor plan has been changed, apparently in preparation for the FBA-1 system installation. Bangkok also provided a proposed equipment layout. Tom will provide a copy of the floor plan to LEC. Tom will also send a message to Bangkok advising them that the commo computer will need to be relocated.

d. Twila provided additional guidance for LEC on which bureau printers are a LEC support responsibility. All bureau printers which were not provided by FED, regardless of their use, are a LEC support responsibility.

8. The next Field Bureau ERB is scheduled for Tuesday, 30 June at 1300.

  
Laird Steinberg

Attachments:

- A. FBA ERB Attendees
- B. FBA ERB Agenda
- C. DR Status Report
- ~~D. Evaluation of [redacted] memo of 1 May 1987 to ERB~~

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**DS&T/FBIS/ESG/ADD/SES:LSteinberg:mlh/527-8600 (26JUN87)**

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1 - SAM/PROD  
1 - SA/OPS  
1 - W. Pratt, COTR  
1 - T. Forrest, Bur. Seg. Mgr.  
1 - LEC  
1 - GE/SES Staff  
1 - GE/SES Chrono  
1 - ADD Staff  
1 - ADD Chrono  
14 - Bureau Chiefs  
1 - Cologne  
3 - S & T Units



MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: Scott C.

SUBJECT: Comments on  memo of 1 May 1987 to ERB.

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1. Comments on section I. Transmit is capable of containing the necessary canned messages while it is true that they are not as convenient. Until now, there was no requirement for the Transmit software to provide this capability. I am sure that if there is a universal need for this then the requirement can be added and the software modified to provide the feature. The number of Bureaus desiring their commo line to activate without a commo operator present should be investigated as it may make some uncomfortable. The last paragraph of the section discusses the use of two comm-ports in the Transmit workstation. The main purpose of this is to supposedly maintain a mark (a constant low or high level) on the line so that London does not think the line dead. This can be handled in other ways. LEC should investigate the use of two comm-ports. This would require spec changes also.

2. Comments on section II. In the current configuration of the Press Agency (PA) and User Database (UDB) software, there is no need for the user to know where the files are or what the file name is. This was done to provide some security to the original file. Using the UDB software, the user puts a copy of the file anywhere they want. The UDB log does provide more information on the files than both of Mohan's programs as well as being source specific. While LEC is planning and working on a new version, the prototype version installed in Vienna is quite adequate and there is no current or foreseeable need for any stand-alone PCs for Press Agency work.

3. Remaining Comments. The MakeLog and Wipe programs look useful and could make life easier for the users. I did not view anybody using them. I do not see any problem with them being used off-line. The PhraseA program is a bit different since it is really only useful in a concurrent atmosphere. Currently there are some unsolved problems with TSR compatibility between the network and DoubleDos so I do not recommend its use at this point. PhraseA does not have a large following (2 or 3 users) but this does point at a need for some kind of database to contain phrases, acronyms, unusual and new translations, and names.