**CALCULATED U.S. DECEPTION ON OMEGA BASE**  
**By Joe Vialls**

The 450 meter tall Omega mast at Darriman, Victoria, is perhaps the largest US top secret military project hidden in the open, carefully disguised as a vaguely inaccurate navigation transmitter dedicated to the worthy cause of maritime emergency services. In reality Omega is an extremely accurate, strategic navigation system emitting an electromagnetic field so powerful it poses a health threat to Australian citizens in Victoria and beyond.

The introduction of Omega to Australia took the US government 13 years to complete. The Victorian transmitter was the last of eight worldwide stations to begin transmitting during late 1982. US strategy was to deceive the Australian government and people alike with disinformation aimed at proving the Omega system was not accurate enough to be used as an aid to nuclear ballistic missile submarines.

The implication was obvious: if the system was not accurate enough for ballistic submarine use, then what were people making such a fuss about? The strategy worked, and opposition to the Omega network died down from strident calls to stop construction during the 1970s to muted, puzzled acceptance in the late 1980s.

The deception that Omega was simply too inaccurate for use by US forces was pivotal in allowing the Victorian station to start transmitting.

The US declared Omega was accurate only to one or two kilometers, then proceeded to encourage the sale of small (inaccurate) Omega navigation receivers to fishing and pleasure boats alike. True to US declarations, these "single frequency" receivers provided a fix accurate only to within one or two kilometers. Hundreds of Australian mariners confirmed the distorted US claim of limited accuracy.

In order to obtain a navigation fix from a "hyperbolic" system like Omega, the vessel must obtain signals from three different transmitters. For example, a vessel offshore Western Australia would receive signals from the stations located in East Gippsland, Tsushima in Japan and La Reunion in the western Indian Ocean.

The calculated US illusion lay in the fact the small Omega receivers had access to only one of the five available frequencies transmitted in sequence by each of those three transmitters. This meant that an ambiguity could creep in every half wave length, or approximately 13 kilometers.

For important US military aircraft, submarines and fighting ships, an entirely different receiver was provided, initially with three frequencies and then with up to five. The addition of the second frequency reduced the error to once every 38 kilometers, the third frequency to once every 115 kilometers, the fourth frequency to once every 350 kilometers and the fifth to once every 1050 kilometers.

Equipped with special five-frequency receivers, US military aircraft, submarines and fighting ships can therefore plot their positions with a theoretical accuracy of one meter.

For the US government, the only remaining task was reinforcing public opinion that Omega really was a bit of a $50 million overkill entirely unsuited for strategic use. The answer was simple: hide the facility in the open, pat visitors indulgently on the head and hand out bumper stickers.

Such techniques, normally referred to as "reverse security", have been common in Europe for years, where population density is so high that most installations cannot be surrounded night and day by packs of ravenous killer dogs and guards armed with submachine guns.

**Advantages**

Why should the US go to such lengths to install the transmitter at all? At first glance, it seems that satellites of the GPS variety would be perfectly adequate for all military usage.

Radio signals from position-fixing satellites cannot penetrate the surface of the water, so ballistic missile submarines in particular need to surface in order to receive signals. By comparison, the Omega signals penetrate not only water but also sea ice to at least 15 meters, making the very risky business of surfacing completely unnecessary.

Perhaps more importantly, during a thermonuclear war all transistorized circuits in the navigation satellites would be burned out by electromagnetic pulses emitted by thermonuclear weapons exploding in the stratosphere, rendering the satellites utterly useless. The very low frequency (VLF) transmissions of Omega would be almost completely unaffected by the holocaust and a retaliatory strike from the Southern Ocean using US Trident D5 missiles with a range of more than 7000 nautical miles could easily be achieved. Thus Australia would be dragged unwillingly into a northern hemisphere superpower thermonuclear war.

As a critical command, control and communications (C3) facility for the US nuclear ballistic submarine fleet, the Omega station in Victoria is undoubtedly targeted by at least two Russian multi-megaton warheads riding on independently launched missiles.

**High Power**

The US government also forgot to mention another long-term hazard associated with the transmitter: the effect of electromagnetic pollution on Australians.

A 1978 Australian document describes the power of the Omega signal as 10 kW, "about the same as a typical ABC broadcasting station." Unfortunately the US government had been lying through its hind teeth, and the environmental impact statement was fraudulent due to the inaccurate information provided.

The power input to the Omega station is shown in a 1978 Australian document as consisting of two 450 kW transformers drawing power from a dedicated substation fed by the national grid, backed up by a huge 750 kW stand-by generator driven by a V12 diesel. All this to transmit "a radio signal of 10 kW in power?"

Of course not. The Omega station transmits in two modes at the same time: the first a weak 10,000 watt sky-wave signal from the top of the mast, and the second an incredibly powerful ground-wave the US government forgot to mention which pumps another 500,000 watts out through the earth, via giant buried copper aerials radiating out around the base of the mast every 10 degrees for a distance of 1100 feet each.

The ground-wave mode is of special interest to ballistic missile submarines because, unlike the sky-wave, it has no inherent ambiguities.

It should be noted that one of the declared primary requirements for the Omega site was "high soil conductivity" - the ability of the ground to transmit electromagnetic fields for long distances. East Gippsland soil is highly conductive all the way to Melbourne and beyond. Last year a radio expert living more than 100 km from the transmitter detected an "earth" electrical potential so strong he was able to listen to Omega's ground-wave pulses by plugging his high impedance headphones directly into the dirt of his back garden.

At the entrance to the user-friendly transmitter site in East Gippsland a large sign flanked by pretty gardens declares: "Australian Maritime Safety Authority Welcomes Visitors to the Omega Navigation Facility." But if a visitor tries to stray beyond the building to take closer pictures of the huge aerial, the response is: "Sorry, it's too hot out there" - a direct reference to radio frequency burns that would be suffered by anyone unwise enough to trample across hidden copper earth aerials pumping out half a million watts.

**Dangers**

There is a very real danger to the people of Victoria from the massive ground-wave travelling through that state's highly conductive soil. Dr Robert Becker, MD, an expert of great renown in the specialized field of electromagnetic pollution and twice a Nobel Prize nominee, has published alarming information about increased incidence of cancer, cataracts, developmental defects, genetic effects and mental illness due to powerful electromagnetic fields emitted by low frequency transmitters, allied equipment and systems.

Becker, in his book *Cross Currents*, made the following general observation: "All abnormal, man-made electromagnetic fields, regardless of their frequencies, produce the same biological effects. These effects ... deviate from normal functions and are actually or potentially harmful."

Omega has been transmitting continuously for at least 10 years. Health statistics in Victoria need to be compared with others in New South Wales and Queensland on a "before" and "after" basis, especially within 700 kilometers of the Omega transmitter. Statistics are already revealing an increase in the incidence of Victorian cancers over those in Western Australia, but a lot more work needs to be done in order to establish the actual level of danger. Many forms of cancer take up to 15 years to appear, and by then it may be too late to save some of the people affected.

It is currently unknown what levels of electromagnetic pollution the other large bases at Pine Gap and Nurrungar may be generating, but it seems unlikely there will be any noticeable concern about Australian public health on the part of the US government.