

ARRL Volunteer Monitoring Program

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 2018 meeting, the Volunteer Monitoring Program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by ARRL for action by FCC guidelines.

This program intends to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff.

Under this program, the FCC will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitoring program, without the delay of ARRL having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process.

There is a target number of geographically distributed Volunteer Monitors with a maximum of 5 per ARRL Section and a total of 250 Volunteer Monitors in the program. These individuals retain anonymity to the public and are accredited for a maximum of three years, renewable by satisfying the requirements necessary to ensure competency.

ARRL HQ staff has the authority to accredit, appoint, and dismiss Volunteer Monitors.

The MOU between the FCC and the ARRL establishing the Volunteer Monitoring Program can be found on the ARRL website.

Note: This program replaced the Official Observer Program