



Close-up view of RT-519 agents transmitter.



## RT-519

(KGB code name 'Barhan')

Country of origin: USA

### DATA SUMMARY

**Organisation:** CIA.

**Year of Introduction:** Around 1975.

**Purpose:** Agents one way short range SRAC VHF transmitter.

**Technical details:**

**Frequency:** 167.7MHz.

**RF output:** 0.8W.

**Modulation:** FSK 600Bd.

**Keying burst:** 1.44s, independent of the number of messages.

**Aerial:** Two strips of copper foil attached to the inside of the radio recorder's back panel.

**Power:** 15V DC derived from a separate DC/DC converter, powered by the radio recorder batteries.

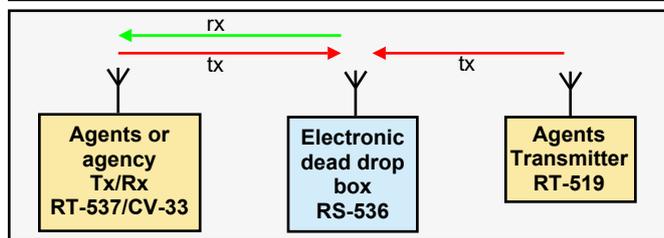
### REMARKS

The RT-519 Brevity Code Transmitter (KGB Codename 'Barhan') was a miniature agents VHF data transmitter for operating over a relatively short range. It was used for delivering a message whilst being in the vicinity of an electronic dead drop box RS-536 Base Receive System, in a system known as Short Range Agent Communications (SRAC). Up to 84 prearranged codes, comprising 18 8-fold combinations, could be transmitted which were stored into the RS-536 dead drop box.

The transmitter comprised a single module embodying on its front panel a number of buttons for preparing the coded messages. The tiny buttons could only be operated by means of a stylus or a pin. In the here described example, which was captured in the possession of an agent, the RT-519 was hidden behind the left hand loudspeaker grille of an Aiwa 'Stereo 920' radio recorder. The associated DC/DC converter was concealed behind the right hand loudspeaker grille. The transmitter was operated by micro switches, mechanically coupled to existing control buttons of the radio recorder. The aerial comprised two strips of copper foil glued to the inside of the back panel of the radio recorder.

*Wikipedia:*

SRAC devices were adopted by Western intelligence agencies during the Cold War in the 1960s, but Eastern Block nations possessed and used similar technologies. The devices were miniature to ease concealment, and capable of transmitting encrypted data.



The electronic dead drop box (RS-536) was concealed but accessible to anyone with appropriate equipment. It comprised a VHF transmitter/ receiver, electronic storage and system control. Messages from an agent's RT-519 transmitter (one way only) were received and stored.

Collecting a message (two-way) was by means of a VHF transmitter receiver RT-537/CV-33 which interrogated the electronic dead drop box (acting as a transponder) and retrieved the stored agent's message. In addition it \*might\* be able to clear the dead drop box's memory.

### References:

- With many thanks to Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany for the colour photo, BStU data sheets and technical data of the RT-519 transmitter.
- Information on similar systems courtesy Crypto Museum, Eindhoven, Holland. [www.cryptomuseum.com](http://www.cryptomuseum.com)
- Wikipedia: Short range agent communications (SRAC).
- BStU, Archive der Zentralstelle, MfS-HA-II, No. 44310, n.d.