



Federal Communications Commission

Tuesday, August 26, 2003

Chief Harold Hurtt, Phoenix Arizona Police Dept.

President, Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)

Chief Mary Ann Viverette, Gaithersburg Maryland Police Dept.

Vice President, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

Sheriff Wayne Gay, Wilson County, North Carolina

President, National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)

Dean Kueter, Director of Government Affairs, NSA

Chief (Ret) Harlin R. McEwen

Chairman, IACP Communications & Technology Committee

Communications Advisor, MCC, NSA, MCSA

WT Docket 02-55

Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

**This is about
800 MHz**

Public Safety Interference

**It is not about
the corporate interests of
Nextel-Cingular-Verizon
AT&T-Sprint-Utilities**

Public Safety Radio Interference “Current 800 MHz Systems”



Monday, March 12, 2001

Newsline

■ News ■ Money ■ Sports ■ Life

Cellphones drowning out police radios

Mobile communications explosion interferes with signals — and the results can be deadly

Cell towers cause ‘dead spots’ in police-fire radio coverage

Public Safety

Strongly Supports

The Consensus Plan

There's A Reason It's Called The "Consensus Plan"

**800 MHz Consensus Parties Include
90% Of All Affected Licensees**

Public Safety

IAFC, IACP, MCC, NSA, MCSA, APCO

Private Wireless

Numerous Private Organizations

Nextel

800 MHz Interference

Primarily caused by the interleaving of the Nextel cellular-type channels with public safety and private wireless channels

Adjacent cellular-band operations (Cingular, Verizon, AT&T etc. are also a significant contributing factor - particularly in the high end of the 800 MHz Band (NPSPAC Channels)

Case-by-case efforts to resolve interference have been largely ineffective and, in any event, are "reactive" to interference after it occurs

800 MHz Interference

The 800 MHz Realignment set forth in the "Consensus Plan" proposes a comprehensive, one time "proactive" solution to solve the public safety interference problem that is increasing and becoming more widespread

The Consensus Plan calls for frequency shifts within the 800 MHz Band, which for the vast majority of impacted licensees can be accomplished through re-tuning existing radios

Once the Plan is fully implemented, channel interleaving will be eliminated and result in Nextel and other cellular-type operations at the high-end of the band and public safety/private wireless at the low-end of the band (adjacent to the 700 MHz band)

800 MHz Interference

In the "Consensus Plan", Nextel has pledged \$850 million to pay costs of frequency shifts

The "Consensus Plan" will also yield a significant amount of new public safety channels in the 800 MHz Band as well as some additional 700 MHz Band spectrum in addition to existing allocations

It will not be without some pain to public safety but the plan provides that there will no disruption of mission critical public safety communications

800 MHz Interference

The **Opposition** to the "Consensus Plan" primarily comes from cellular competitors of Nextel, such as Cingular, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA), and the United Telecom Council (UTC)

The Nextel competitors claim that Nextel will gain a competitive edge if Nextel is able to swap spectrum with public safety and obtain a new block of spectrum at 1.9 GHz

The FCC must not be distracted by corporate interests

Public Safety is all about you and your families. Our job is to protect your life and safety. We cannot do that unless we have safe and reliable communications. Communications interference puts the public and our first responders at risk

800 MHz Interference

The **Opposition** to the "Consensus Plan" proposes a non solution called "The Balanced Approach".

It is largely "reactive" to interference problems and does little to prevent interference - We cannot wait for a firefighter or police officer to be injured or killed and then learn it was caused by radio interference that could have been prevented

It opposes the "Consensus Plan" that would solve the problem once by shifting frequencies in the band and instead proposes constant (forever) reactive fixes

It offers no funding to assist public safety in solving the interference problem

It offers no new radio spectrum to public safety

Again - This is all about
Public Safety Interference

It is not about
the corporate interests of
Nextel-Cingular-Verizon
AT&T-Sprint-Utilities

Public Safety Strongly Supports
The "Consensus Plan"

Narrowbanding

VHF 150-170 MHz UHF 421-512 MHz

2/25/03 FCC released 2nd Report & Order 99-87

7/17/03 Published in Federal Register

8/18/03 Public Safety Filed Petition for Reconsideration

FCC Report & Order says that effective **January 13, 2004**

1. No new systems will be licensed for frequencies below 512 MHz for greater than 12.5 kHz
2. Modifications to existing systems will be prohibited if they extend the interference contours beyond existing license
3. Manufactures may not manufacture or import equipment with a 25 kHz Component **after Jan. 1, 2008**
4. Deadline for use of 25 kHz equipment in the Public Safety market is **January 1, 2018**

Narrowbanding

VHF 150-170 MHz UHF 421-512 MHz

Public Safety Petition for Reconsideration Says -

That if the "near-term" dates adopted in the Second Report and Order are not changed it will prevent public safety licensees from adding critical capacity and coverage for existing systems, locking them in to current channels and equipment supplies or forcing them to expend scarce resources to replace prematurely their entire radio systems

It proposes to the FCC that -

- A. The near term dates be extended to Jan 1, 2013
- B. If the near term dates are extended then the end-date could be moved up to Jan 1, 2013
- C. Restrictions must be extended so as to not inhibit interoperability (25 kHz/12.5 kHz equipment incompatible)
- D. The rules must permit 25 kHz bandwidth operation for mobile data