

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Date/Time: Friday, March 23, 2001; Meeting Commenced at 9:35 a.m.

Address: Federal Communications Commission
Commission Meeting Room
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attendees: See attached list

Convening of Meeting. The National Coordination Committee's ("NCC") Designated Federal Officer, Michael Wilhelm, opened the meeting by having a sign language interpreter inquire whether anyone in the audience required sign language interpretation of the meeting. There was no response and Mr. Wilhelm requested that if, during the course of the meeting, it was apparent that anyone needed sign language interpretation, that he be notified. He also noted a deviation from the agenda: a substitution of the order of the reports from the Technology and Implementation Subcommittees. He reported that a scheduled presentation by David Buchanan on frequency coordination was cancelled because of Mr. Buchanan's urgent need to return to California to attend to a family medical emergency.

Steering Committee member Rick Murphy announced that a DTV status report was available at the sign-in table and was to be supplemented with additional information. The report and the supplement will be available on the Public Safety Wireless Network web site. Mr. Wilhelm announced the availability of copies of a recent interference report prepared by the Telecommunications Industries Association.

Kathleen Wallman, NCC Chair, then requested the Implementation Subcommittee's report.

Report of the Implementation Subcommittee. Richard DeMello, vice-chair, then gave the report from the Implementation Subcommittee. He announced that pending Subcommittee documents had been footnoted to reflect how the documents were affected by the Commission's *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making* and that it was likely that some adjustments to the footnotes would be in order once Petitions for Reconsideration of the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making* had been disposed of. He indicated that it would be necessary for the Subcommittee to meet again to consider the changed documents before forwarding them to the NCC Steering Committee.

Mr. DeMello announced that the National Institute of Justice pre-coordination database was scheduled for completion in October 2001, and that a National Public Safety Telecommunications Council database committee meeting was set for April 18 and 19 in Denver. He commended Tom Tolman and David Funk for the database presentation they had given the previous day. Mr. DeMello also noted that, on the previous day, David Eireman had presented an update on the progress of DTV.

Mr. DeMello also mentioned a productive meeting that had taken place the previous day among National Public Safety Telecommunications Council representatives, Implementation Subcommittee members and FCC staff. That meeting resulted in a determination that certain Implementation Subcommittee documents would be edited by a technical writer and "packaged"

for convenient use by the Regional Planning Committees. The editing and packaging is being underwritten by the National Institute of Justice and the materials will be available on the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council web site.

Mr. DeMello then introduced Tom Tolman, who informed the meeting about the availability of National Institute of Justice funding for Regional Planning Committees and stated that the National Institute of Justice is committed to continue to fund the pre-coordination database. Mr. Tolman also introduced the program manager for the AGILE effort at the National Institute of Justice, Tom Cody, who stated that he will be sending a letter to the NCC Chair, Ms. Wallman, giving assurances of the National Institute of Justice's continued commitment to the database project, that the project is fully funded and that the budget includes maintaining the database over 10 years; noting, however, that, as with any federal agency, funding is on a year-to-year basis.

Mr. Tolman again mentioned the availability of National Institute of Justice funds for the Regional Planning Committees and that the details of the funding could be found on the web site, www.NPSTC.org. Moreover, a newsletter is being produced to provide further outreach to the Regional Planning Committees on the subject of funding availability.

Mr. DeMello indicated that a document is being created within the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council for use by the frequency coordinators and that the document recites a commitment by the coordinators to use the pre-coordination database in the frequency coordination process. He indicated that the document, once signed, will be furnished to NCC Chair Ms. Wallman and others. Finally, he noted that he was providing a copy of current Implementation Subcommittee documents to the Designated Federal Officer, Mr. Wilhelm, for inclusion in the record.

Presentation by FCC's International Bureau. Ms. Wallman then introduced Mr. John Giusti of the FCC's International Bureau for his presentation on international harmonization of public service radio frequencies.

Mr. Giusti stated that he is responsible for directing FCC participation in international organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union. He said that the global or regional harmonization issue came up at the International Telecommunications Union whose world communication conference is held every two to three years. Countries send representatives to the conference to decide whether to amend, through treaty, the International Radio Regulations. The most recent conference took place last May in Istanbul with the participation of 150 countries. The next conference is scheduled for 2003 in Caracas and preparations for that conference are in the early stages in the United States. There currently are 43 items on the agenda, which represent a formidable task. The goal of the FCC, and the United States delegation as a whole, is to come to the conference with a unified position on each agenda item. To arrive at consensus requires agreement among the State Department, the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Agency ("NTIA"), and their various constituencies.

Mr. Giusti reported that WRC preparation requires a significant commitment of Commission resources, extending beyond the International Bureau into such other bureaus and offices as the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology. He said that information is gathered from the communications industry as well and that the International Bureau has established an advisory committee, much like the NCC, to obtain an industry perspective on WRC issues. Of greatest interest to the NCC, Mr. Giusti said, is likely to be Agenda Item 1.3 put forth by India and dealing with globally and regionally harmonized spectrum to meet the needs of public protection agencies, including for emergent situations and

disaster relief. The current question is whether spectrum harmonization is needed, globally or regionally, for these purposes. If it is, there is the subsidiary question of how much spectrum is required and what frequency bands should be used.

He said that International Telecommunications Union Working Party 8A has been assigned to the harmonization issue and has distributed a questionnaire to all International Telecommunications Union member states concerning present and contemplated use of spectrum for public protection and disaster relief. The United States response to the questionnaire was developed by a team led by NTIA, with participation by the FCC and industry.

Mr. Giusti encouraged the NCC to work with the International Bureau in developing a position on the harmonization issue, noting that Working Party 8A will next meet in India in April. He mentioned that the advisory committee has established a web page to solicit input from industry and other interested parties on each WRC agenda item, and encouraged the NCC members to review that web page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wrc-03>. The harmonization issue was assigned to the advisory committee's informal working group six, chaired by NCC member Larry Miller, 202.624.8480, LarryM@AASHTO.ORG.

At the conclusion of Mr. Giusti's presentation, Steering Committee member Harlin McEwen expressed concern over the fact that the questionnaire described by Mr. Giusti stated or implied that the United States already has adequate public safety spectrum; a statement in direct conflict with information that the NCC has supplied to the Commission. Mr. McEwen argued that the statement was unfair as an expression of the United States position.

Mr. Giusti described the United States answers to the questionnaire as being as noncommittal as possible and said he knew no one in the United States public safety community who disagrees that additional spectrum is needed. He then deferred to Ms. Julie Buchanan of the International Bureau staff for a more detailed answer. She said that the wording in question should be interpreted to mean that the United States has sufficient public safety spectrum for regional or global harmonization purposes; not that the current supply of spectrum was adequate for domestic purposes.

Steering Committee Marilyn Ward stated that she and the organization she represents – the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council – were in full agreement with Chief McEwen's statement, *i.e.*, that she had concern about a document that was going to an international forum containing a statement that the United States had adequate public safety spectrum and that she believed different language was called for.

Mr. Giusti noted that Ms. Buchanan was going to attend the meeting in India and that she would properly put forth the position of the United States on the adequacy of its public safety spectrum. He encouraged those present to contact him, Ms. Buchanan or Mr. Miller with their views on how the harmonization issue should be addressed.

Sgt. John Powell, chair of the Interoperability Subcommittee noted that the harmonization issue had arisen from Project Mesa, an international effort involving the Telecommunications Industries Association and the European Union on advanced technology beyond broadband communications that would require a world-wide market to be practical commercially. He referred the attendees to the Project Mesa web site for additional information.

Interoperability Subcommittee Report. Sgt. Powell then gave the report from the Interoperability Subcommittee. Sgt. Powell first presented documents relating to the activities of

the Interoperability Subcommittee the previous day. The documents consisted of a cover letter of transmittal, a revised interoperability table of assignments that proposes distributing the eight trunking channels so that they are equally divided within the two television sub-bands and a report from the Telecommunications Industries Association purporting to show the benefits of surrounding each 12.5 kHz interoperability channel with a 6.25 kHz guard channel. Sgt. Powell noted that the documents were created in response to the Commission's Public Safety *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making*. He proposed that the channel assignment and guard band proposals be submitted by the NCC to the Commission as comments on two of the petitions for reconsideration submitted in response to the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making*. The table of assignments contains channels designated for specific users, and Sgt. Powell explained that such channels were to be the "first place to go in an emerging or developing incident;" but were not intended to be exclusively used by the services contained in the table. Thus, he said, a reading of the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making* shows that the Commission may have misunderstood the intent of the table of assignments, and deemed the channel designations therein as being exclusive to each service.

Sgt. Powell reported that the Interoperability Subcommittee had asked the Telecommunications Industries Association to examine the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making* with reference to the manner in which guard channels had been assigned adjacent to interoperability channels. The Telecommunications Industries Association reported that adjacent channel interference to and from the interoperability channels would be significantly reduced if interoperability channels were flanked by 6.25 kHz guard channels. Sgt. Powell indicated that the Telecommunications Industries Association report was preliminary and will be formally considered at its meeting in a week and a half, after which the association will provide a final document for use by the Steering Committee as it sees fit. Sgt. Powell anticipates that the Steering Committee will use the Telecommunications Industry Association report as the basis of comments it submits on petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making*.

Sgt. Powell also indicated that the Interoperability Subcommittee was forwarding to the Implementation Subcommittee, recommendations for the avoidance of interference to and from the interoperability channels. He said that the Regional Planning Committees should carefully evaluate the technologies placed in first adjacent channels and alert applicants of the interference potential should they elect to operate on these channels.

Ms. Wallman then clarified that the documents, above, were being submitted to the Steering Committee for informational purposes and that Steering Committee approval was not being sought at this meeting. Sgt. Powell confirmed that Steering Committee approval was not being requested but stated that the Steering Committee could use the documents in connection with comments the NCC might submit in response to petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making*.

Report of the Technology Subcommittee. Mr. Glen Nash, Chair, then presented the report of the Technology Subcommittee. As an initial matter, Mr. Nash noted that many of the items being considered by the Technology Subcommittee had already been covered in the reports of the Implementation and Interoperability Subcommittees. He also said that there currently was a lull in the activity of the Technology Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has received reports from the Telecommunications Industries Association on various projects it is working on in cooperation with the Technology Subcommittee. Currently the Telecommunications Industries Association is working on defining performance parameters to be used in applying T.S.B. 88 to

the frequency coordination process. In particular, the Telecommunications Industries Association is seeking additional information on interference-related characteristics of TETRA. Also, the Telecommunications Industries Association is continuing its work on developing a wideband data standard and is evaluating certain technologies advanced by manufacturers. Mr. Nash noted that the Technology Subcommittee had discussed the same adjacent channel interference issues addressed by the Interoperability Subcommittee and that the Telecommunications Industries Association report indicated that flanking the interoperability channels with 6.25 kHz guard channels would provide from a 2 dB to 18 dB additional adjacent channel interference relative to other interoperability channels. The improvement was more marked with reference to the General Use and State Channels, where improvements of from 12 dB to 33 dB could be expected. With respect to interference between a Project 25 Phase One operation and an immediately adjacent Project 25 Phase Two operation, Mr. Nash stated that interference would be so severe that, as a practical matter, the two operations could not be conducted in the same area.

Mr. Nash then discussed the pending Motorola Petition for Clarification. In that petition, Motorola claims that the Erratum to the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making* changed a rule in a manner that would seem to require that, for data transmission, interoperability channel radios would have to accommodate both circuit switched and packet switched data, at significant additional cost. The Technology Subcommittee discussed whether both circuit switched and packet switched capability was necessary and formed a working group to address the issue. In that connection, Mr. Nash noted that there were three operational modes to be considered: direct unit-to-unit communications, unit-to-unit communications through a repeater, and unit to central station communications. He said that the Technology Subcommittee had referred to the Interoperability Subcommittee, the question of what data needed to be transmitted on the interoperability channels and who would be participating in data communications. Once that information is received, the Technology Subcommittee will attempt to define a data interoperability standard that includes an applications layer, without which, in the Subcommittee's opinion, an adequate data interoperability standard will not exist.

Mr. Nash also reported that the Technology Subcommittee had discussed three petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Report and Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making*. The three petitions discussed were those submitted by the Public Safety Wireless Network, John Powell, and the National TETRA Forum. Review of the petitions revealed that there were no issues that had to be addressed by the Technology Subcommittee.

Steering Committee Discussion. Ms. Wallman then opened the meeting for discussion and gave the floor to Steering Committee Member Chief Harlin McEwen. Chief McEwen reported the substance of the issues discussed at meetings held between public safety representatives and Commission staff regarding interference to 700 MHz Public Safety operations. He noted that the Commission had made a rule change affecting the commercial spectrum adjacent to public safety spectrum and that the change could increase the probability of interference. Chief McEwen stated that the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council had filed a petition for reconsideration of the rule change and based its petition on a report prepared by the Telecommunications Industries Association. The meeting with Commission staff disclosed that the interference issue was being seriously considered and Chief McEwen stated that "positive things were happening" with regard to the interference issue.

Next, Chief McEwen discussed a recent USA Today article concerning interference to public safety communications. He said that he, and a number of people present at this meeting, had been interviewed by the USA Today reporter and, in the course of the interview, said several favorable things about the manner in which the Commission was dealing with interference problems.

Unfortunately, Chief McEwen stated, the article omitted favorable references to the Commission and he wanted it to be a matter of record that the NCC publicly acknowledges the good work of the Commission, that there is continuing concern about interference and that dialog on that issue is ongoing.

Ms. Wallman then noted the appearance of Michael Brasher as a Steering Committee member and asked Mr. Brasher to introduce himself to those present at the meeting. Mr. Brasher indicated that he served the NCC in his capacity as representative from the Local and State Government Advisory Committee. He serves on that committee as a representative of the National League of Cities Information Communications Committee. He is a City Councilor from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Brasher stated that the Local and State Government Advisory Committee was concerned about interference to police operations and the ability to cause an interfering station to cease operation when a life threatening situation requires police communications availability.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations. Ms. Wallman then noted that the next NCC meeting is scheduled on May 10 and 11 in St. Louis, Missouri, and that a summer hiatus might be appropriate given the fact that the NCC is awaiting action from the Telecommunications Industries Association. After discussion, it was decided that the following meetings should take place on September 13 and 14, 2001. The Subcommittee meetings on September 13 will be held in a Commission conference room; the general membership meeting will be held on September 14 in the Commission meeting room.

Close of Meeting. There being no further business, Ms. Wallman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Prepared by: Michael Wilhelm
Designated Federal Officer
to the NCC

Certified as to accuracy:

Kathleen Wallman

Date: _____

NCC ATTENDANCE ROSTER FOR March 23, 2001

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Allen	Richard	March 23, 2001
Ashley	Don	March 23, 2001
Baer	Sandra	March 23, 2001
Blake	Richard	March 23, 2001
Bohn	Richard	March 23, 2001
Brown	Michael	March 23, 2001
Buchanan	David	March 23, 2001
Carter	Rena	March 23, 2001
Chirhart	Thomas	March 23, 2001
Coltri	Norman	March 23, 2001
Coty	Thomas	March 23, 2001
DeMello	Richard	March 23, 2001
Eierman	David	March 23, 2001
Ensminger	Robert	March 23, 2001
Funk	David	March 23, 2001
Giarrusso	Robert	March 23, 2001
Gordon	Kirk	March 23, 2001
Gurss	Robert	March 23, 2001
Haraseth	Ron	March 23, 2001

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<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Hoffman	Charles	March 23, 2001
Hofmeister Dr.	Ernest	March 23, 2001
Hyatt	Mactin	March 23, 2001
Jackson	Charles	March 23, 2001
Kain, PE	Carl	March 23, 2001
Leland	Wayne	March 23, 2001
Loewenstein	Timothy	March 23, 2001
Martinez	Manbel	March 23, 2001
McDole	Art	March 23, 2001
McEwen	Harlin	March 23, 2001
McGahey	Gene	March 23, 2001
Nash	Glen	March 23, 2001
Nunno	Richard	March 23, 2001
O'Hara	Ellen	March 23, 2001
O'Hara	Sean T.	March 23, 2001
Olson	Carl "Bernie"	March 23, 2001
Orsulak	Rich	March 23, 2001
Overby	Stu	March 23, 2001
Pickeral, J.D.	David	March 23, 2001

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Powell	John	March 23, 2001
Proctor	Steven	March 23, 2001
Rinehart	Bette	March 23, 2001
Roy	Adam	March 23, 2001
Ryan	Ed	March 23, 2001
Salmon	Robert F.	March 23, 2001
Schlieman	Robert F.	March 23, 2001
Shahnam	Alireza (Ali)	March 23, 2001
Sobeche	James	March 23, 2001
Sorley	Tom	March 23, 2001
Speidel Esq.	Robert	March 23, 2001
Speights	Don	March 23, 2001
Tolman	Tom	March 23, 2001
VanAller	Willem	March 23, 2001
Vogel	Emil	March 23, 2001
Ward	Marilyn	March 23, 2001
Wells	Carlton	March 23, 2001

Total for Attendance Roster: 55

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McEwen	Harlin	March 23, 2001
McGahey	Gene	March 23, 2001
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Nunno	Richard	March 23, 2001
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