



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

AUG 27 2001

Honorable Tom Daschle  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-7020

Dear Mr. Leader:

Access to the radio frequency spectrum is essential to our success in all future real-world operations. Lack of adequate spectrum will jeopardize our national security.

Right now, our government is engaged in an effort to allocate the radio frequency spectrum necessary for third generation (3G) wireless communications. This is a complex issue that requires consideration of many national security, economic, and technical factors.

Of the several bands discussed at the recent World Radio Communications Conference, US-based wireless industry spokesmen have stated that the Federal government band from 1755-1850 MHz is preferable for future 3G services. The Department of Defense is not the only government user of this band, but it is the largest. We depend on this band for, among other things, satellite telemetry; tracking and commanding critical satellite systems (including the Global Positioning System, Milstar and the Defense Support Program); precision guided munitions; Army, Navy and Marine Corps tactical radio relay systems; air combat training systems; targeting; intelligence; and the real-time delivery of voice, video, and data information to warfighters and their commanders.

The Department's study of the feasibility of accommodating 3G services in the Federal band found that sharing the band is not practical, and that relinquishing some or all of the band cannot be completed prior to the next decade. Furthermore, moving to other bands would first require the allocation of comparable spectrum, then full compensation for the significant additional costs incurred by our government to accomplish the shift, and finally the requisite time to transition. Finally, we note that to be effectively comparable, regulatory status in the band and physical propagation characteristics of the band must be considered, among other things.

Various proposals have been put forward for a "win-win" solution. We are open to such a solution provided that DoD requirements are preserved. However, no solution is feasible unless and until comparable spectrum has been identified for the displaced DoD functions. Therefore, we ask that no decision be made to reallocate the Federal band, including a "policy decision" or "decision in principle," until truly comparable spectrum is identified and made available. We also think it is important that the protections



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provided in the 1999 and 2000 National Defense Authorization Acts, regarding financial compensation and comparable spectrum for displaced DoD entities, be preserved.

In conclusion, DoD must not be forced to relocate to other spectrum prematurely. *Forced relocation will have serious consequences on our national security and increase the risk to military personnel.* We will continue to work with the White House, Congress, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, and other parties interested in finding the best solution for the Nation on the issue of 3G spectrum. We strongly urge your active support to safeguard our interests and to provide the Armed Forces the spectrum necessary to truly achieve a "win-win" solution.

Thank you for your continued strong and dedicated interest in our national security.



HENRY H. SHELTON  
Chairman  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



DONALD H. RUMSFELD  
Secretary of Defense