

Association of Old Crows

For Immediate Release

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AOC Opposes Hasty Spectrum Inventory and Auction

Obama Broadband Memorandum will set military back

Alexandria, VA –The Electronic Warfare and Information Operations Association, also known as the Association of Old Crows (AOC) announced today that it opposes existing efforts by the Obama Administration to sell 500 megahertz of spectrum for commercial wireless and cautions against expeditious passage of the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act and other spectrum auction legislation by Congress.

The National Broadband Plan calls for the sale of 300 megahertz of spectrum in five years and a total of 500 megahertz in 10 years. In a letter to the FCC, AOC President Christopher Glaze wrote, “We recognize the growing need for commercial spectrum, but the FCC, the Department of Defense, and the entire Administration must understand how vital the spectrum is to every warfighting capability in the 21st Century.” The Broadband Plan and efforts by Congress to expedite the auction process will significantly and disproportionately affect the joint warfighters who rely on the spectrum to train and fight in demanding environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are currently two bills before Congress that the AOC believes will negatively affect the military services, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act and the Spectrum Relocation Improvement Act. “The AOC has worked hard to make substantive improvements [to the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act]. While pleased with many of the improvements in the House version of the bill, we are concerned by reports that the FCC is already trying to identify military spectrum for auction,” wrote Glaze. The problem, according to the AOC, is that there are no common standards or metrics to properly determine [military] spectrum utilization and the true impact that losing such spectrum will have on training and the operation of existing and future military technology.”

“[The Defense Department] has a long way to go toward making the necessary changes in doctrine, organization, and development of a spectrum enterprise workforce. As such, it is careless and short-sighted to hastily auction any military spectrum until such measures are taken to ensure that spectrum relocation does not significantly and disproportionately affect the joint warfighters who rely on the EMS to train and fight.”

Mr. Glaze closes by stating, “[T]he prosperity and security of nations will rely on the use of the [spectrum] to achieve strategic advantage and to strengthen all instruments of national power.

Unfortunately, the U.S. is no longer a generation ahead of its peer competitors in managing and controlling the EMS and our military is now at a crossroads. It sends a wrong message to our warfighters that the U.S. is preparing to limit the ability to fight in the very electronic environment that 21st Century combat requires.”

For more information or questions regarding the press release, please contact Mr. Ken Miller, Director of Government and Industry Affairs, at 703-549-1600 or kmiller@crowns.org.

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