

news

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BI-MONTHLY

REPORT

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

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UPS Plans to Build 220-222 MHz. Digital Network

Another large industrial giant has jumped on the "grab 220" bandwagon. United Parcel Service has filed very impressive ...and very late comments ...on the FCC proposal to reallocate two megahertz from the amateur 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -meter band to the Land Mobile Service for narrow band amplitude compandored business use.

UPS is very concerned about the telecommunications strides made by their number one competitor, Federal Express. Fedex employs a very sophisticated digital mobile telecommunications system. Their drivers even have clipboard scanning radios. UPS doesn't have anything like that and plans to use the 220-MHz ham band to play catchup by building a nationwide data network.

The comments, which run to some 14 pages were authored on behalf of UPS by the prestigious Washington law firm of Wiley, Rein and Fielding. Richard Wiley, a partner in the law firm, was previously the FCC Chairman during the mid-1970's. The UPS comments were signed by Fred Fielding. Attached to the document is a Motion for Acceptance of Late Filed Comments.

UPS states they have included in their long range plans design and implementation of a nationwide private land mobile network to improve the efficiency of their package delivery service. Their plan is to use frequencies

within the 220 to 222 MHz band employing narrowband technology.

Even though the FCC has not yet acted on General Docket 87-14, United Parcel has already contracted with SEA, Inc. for rights to their ACSB technology and has created a UPS subsidiary, II Morrow, Inc., to produce the needed transceivers necessary for their 220 to 220 megahertz network.

UPS's comments close with the following summary:

"United Parcel Service of America, Inc., a future user of Private Land Mobile Services through the planned development of its own nationwide network supports the Commission proposal to reallocate the 220-222 MHz. band for exclusive use of Land Mobile Services."

"The public benefits of the Commission's proposal are clear. First the Commission's proposed allocation will make available several hundred of new channels for land mobile radio operators using narrowband technology. These channels will relieve the congestion within bands currently allocated to the Land Mobile Services - a condition that is worsening as demand increases."

"Second, the development of an extensive Land Mobile system such as the one

which UPS contemplates will inevitably lead to innovations and improvements in narrow-band radio technology and to a reduction in the cost of narrowband radio equipment."

"Currently, narrowband technology is used almost exclusively to exploit the space between existing wide band Land Mobile radio channels in the 150 MHz band. This limited amount of spectrum has been inadequate to stimulate the use and development of narrowband radio. The availability of 220-222 MHz will provide a much needed testing ground for narrowband technology and the development of cost effective equipment. Ultimately, refinements in narrowband systems will allow a more efficient use of scarce spectrum increasing the capacity of a given band by as much as five times over current channelization."

"To enhance the ability to develop quickly the equipment necessary to utilize the 220-222 MHz band, UPS has contracted with SEA, Inc., for rights to the latter's advanced narrowband technology and has begun to staff a UPS subsidiary, (II Morrow, Inc.) to insure the production of such equipment for UPS's planned system."

"The comments and oppositions to the Commission's proposal essentially make two arguments. (1.) Amateur radio operators need the spectrum to perform several essential functions (repeater stations, repeater station control, and packet radio) and (2.) the proposed reallocation would lead to undue interference to VHF television stations. Neither of these concerns, however, form a basis for rejection of the Commission proposal."

"The amateur radio community already has a generous allotment of spectrum that more than adequately permits it to carry out its operation. Moreover, the few amateur stations currently operating in the 220-222 MHz band can be located elsewhere with minimum disruption."

"Finally, the concern that use of the 220-222 MHz by Land Mobile operators might lead to interference with VHF television stations is not well founded or documented by the parties. The closest VHF channel is

separated by a full four megahertz from 220 MHz. In fact, the proposed separation between the VHF channels and the new allocation will insure that if interference could occur, it would be remedied by appropriate operating safeguards."

"Based on the many public benefits which will result from the proposed reallocation and the absence of countervailing arguments, UPS strongly urges the Commission to reaffirm its tentative conclusions and allocate the 220-222 MHz band for Private Land Mobile Services using narrowband technology."

The big question, is whether the FCC will accept the comments since they were filed six months late. An FCC official told us that such comments are usually rejected or accepted in the final Order. "Chances are good that it will be accepted."

Ordinarily late filed comments are not accepted, but UPS is just not another commenter. They are a very big companyand considered very important to America.

On February 16, the ARRL issued League bulletin No. 18 and went on record that it would strongly oppose acceptance of the UPS comments.

MORE ON THE TV ANSWER 220 PROPOSAL

As previously reported, another industrial firm, TV Answer, Inc. of McLean, Virginia, also has petitioned for a portion of the 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ meter ham band. Actually they requested a permanent allocation of one of three frequencies - with a 500 kHz band width. They selected 216.25, 218.25 and 220.25 Mhz.

The last 500 KHz spectrum slice lies in the amateur 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ meter ham band. The first two are presently allocated to the Maritime Mobile Service. TV Answer looked toward the ham bands when it was feared that the Commission might turn down the first two frequencies because of the close proximity of TV channel 13 at 210-216 MHz.

TV Answer, Inc. has proposed creating a return 200-MHz pushbutton radio link

JANUARY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	January	1986	1987	1988
No. VEC's:		*76	*76	*60
No Testing Sessions:		266	288	253

	1986	1987	1988	
ARRL:	50.0%	48.3%	32.4%	
W5YI:	13.5%	24.0%	44.7%	
DeVRY:	6.0%	5.9%	6.3%	
CAVEC:	8.8%	8.0%	1.6%	
Others:	21.7%	13.8%	15.0%	
Year-to-Date Sessions:	266		288	253

	1986	1987	1988	
No. Elements Admin.:	4211		4386	4409
ARRL:	53.4%	55.8%	49.7%	
W5YI:	14.9%	22.2%	31.7%	
CAVEC:	7.0%	6.0%	.5%	
DeVRY:	4.1%	4.4%	3.9%	
Others:	20.6%	11.6%	14.2%	
Year-to-Date Elements:	4211		4386	4409

	1986	1987	1988	
No. Applicants Tested:	2945		2939	2599
ARRL:	54.6%	58.6%	42.3%	
W5YI:	17.2%	20.2%	32.8%	
CAVEC:	5.8%	5.3%	.7%	
DeVRY:	3.1%	4.6%	4.5%	
Others:	19.3%	11.3%	19.7%	
Year-to-Date Applic:	2945		2939	4409

Pass/Upgrade Rate, All: 62.6% 61.3% 63.3%
 Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI: 63.1% 56.3% 56.9%
 Applicants per Session: 11.1 10.2 10.3
 Appl. per Session/W5YI: 9.3 6.7 9.2
 No. Elements Per Appl./All: 1.4 1.5 1.7
 No. Sessions Per VEC/All: 3.5 3.8 4.2

* = The FCC considers ARRL, W5YI, and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call sign districts 1 through 0 plus: Alaska (11) and Carribean (12) and Pacific Insular areas.(13)
 [Source: FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554]

About 50 comments have been filed on the FCC's §Part 15 proposal (Docket 87-389) to allow very low power unlicensed operation across the spectrum ...including the ham bands. For the most part, the comments argue that the FCC is relaxing interference standards. According to the FCC, however, the RFI standards are actually being tightened. Comments close on this docket on March 7 ...replies by May 9th. While no comment time

extensions have been requested as yet, we understand some large firms are planning to do so. Of particular concern to amateurs are §Part 15 devices operating in so-called "General Use Consumer Bands." One of these is the 902-928 MHz amateur band whereby a short-range low-power communications device (such as a child's toy hand-held) could inadvertently trip a nearby amateur repeater allowing unlicensed amateur operation. The §Part 15 user would be required to take the device off the air. Unlicensed 902-928 MHz operation with field strengths of 50 millivolts/per meter @ 3 Meters has been proposed by the FCC.

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of February, 1988.

Radio District:	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Adv. Tech/Gen.	Gp."C" Novice	Gp."D"
0	WE0N	KE0SS	N0IVM	KB0BTH
1	NO1Q	KC1HU	N1FLR	KA1RMW
2	WD2P	KE2EH	N2HWL	KB2FAC
3	NN3E	KD3GI	N3FZE	KA3SQK
4 (*)	AB4GB	KK4WS	N4RZU	KC4DEN
5 (*)	AA5EG	KG5HA	N5MAK	KB5FGX
6 (*)	AA6GR	KJ6CY	N6RIV	KB6VQG
7	WJ7O	KF7GY	N7KKJ	KB7DUO
8	WA8J	KE8PW	N8JCV	KB8DWJ
9	NW9Y	KE9IL	N9HED	KA9ABF
N.Mariana I.	AH0E	AH0AD	KH0AJ	WH0AAH
Guam	KH2G	AH2BV	KH2DE	WH2ALK
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6IU	NH6OG	WH6BWD
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AF	WH8AAW
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7JP	NL7MP	WL7BQK
Virgin Is.	KP2T	KP2BL	NP2CI	WP2AFU
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4OO	WP4NF	WP4HTC

NOTES: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs.

** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs now being assigned Extra Class.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

JANUARY AMATEUR LICENSING STATS

	January	1986	1987	1988	
First Time Amateurs:	1500	2299	1189		
Novice Class Upgrades:	647	668	884		
Technician Upgrading:	257	241	276		
General Class Upgrading:	116	309	255		
Advanced Class Upgrading:	77	170	175		
Total Amateurs Upgrading:	1097	1388	1590		
Total Purged Fm Service*:	873	510	779		
Total Novices Purged*:	535	396	355		
Change/Ham Census/Month	+759	+1438	-978		
Month End Census:	416615	421271	432411		
Extra	Advan.	Gen'l	Tech.	Novice	TOTAL:
(Jan. 1986)					
38624	98003	117110	83879	78999	416615
9.3%	23.5%	28.1%	20.1%	19.0%	
(Jan. 1987)					
41255	97786	115616	85536	81079	421271
9.8%	23.2%	20.5%	20.3%	19.2%	
(Jan. 1988)					
43970	98408	113958	93675	82400	432411
10.2%	22.7%	26.3%	21.7%	19.1%	
Club/Military/RACES Sta.	2737	2568	2395		
Total Active Stations:	419352	423839	434806		
Percent Increase:	.8%	1.1%	3.1%		

NOTE: *=Amateurs purged from service represents amateurs who have been deleted from the Master File. The Master File is made up of active licensees plus amateurs who are still within the grace period for renewing without further testing. There are 473,732 amateurs in the total Master File.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.]

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ABC-TV FIELDS OLYMPIC HAM STATION

The Calgary Amateur Radio Association operated the official amateur Olympic station VX6OCO around the clock on 20 and 15 meters. ("OCO" is the Olympic Committee Organization.) They have a special commemorative certificate available which they openly promoted on-the-air at \$3.00 "American funds" each. Many questioned the high cost.

Not to be outdone, since U.S. licensed amateurs can operate in Canada without further reciprocal licensing, ABC engineering types imported by ABC Television New York and Los Angeles to handle the Olympic technical production work set up their own

unofficial "ABC-TV Olympic station". The primary effort to get the ABC Olympic ham station operational was made by K6CLX of ABC-/Los Angeles.

The HF/VHF/UHF amateur gear was supplied by ICOM and shipped directly to the ABC broadcast center in Calgary, Alberta. Creative Design antennas provided ABC with various beam, "Vee" and dipole antennas. As a result, ABC hams were able to operate on nearly all ham bands between 80 meters and 1.2 GHz. We were told that the American Olympic station really provided a lot of off duty fun for the ABC production staff who were in Canada nearly a month (and are still there as this is being written.)

Among others, active were Fred Weir/-W2UB, Marv Bronstein/K2VHW, Mike Siegel/-WB2FCP from New York -- plus KB6IUA, K6CLX, KS6SP ...from ABC/Los Angeles. The ABC Olympic station operated HF from the broadcast center during the day on 15 and 20 meters -- and 40 and 80 during the evening. ABC team members used their personal ham call signs, portable VX6. A portable ABC bulletin board packet station signing KD6TH-1 was linked on 20 meters through the official Olympic station, VX6OCO at 14.107 and much traffic was passed.

Fred Weir/W2UB told us that he rented an airplane in Calgary via a (\$10 cost) Canada/U.S. reciprocal pilot licensing arrangement. He said that the special ABC Olympic station QSL would contain an aerial photograph taken by the ABC ham team over the Olympic layout in Calgary. The ABC-TV Olympic QSL available from: W2UB, 109 Hammond Road, Centereach, NY 11720, for an SASE.

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CANADA-SOVIET POLAR BRIDGE SKITREK

Canadian coordinator (and CRRL president) Tom Atkins, VE3CDM/VE8UA, and chief Canadian operator Barry Garratt, VE3CDX/-VE8CDX, have just returned from Moscow, USSR, where they have finalized the amateur communications arrangements with Leonid Labutin, UA3CR, and the Soviet amateur group. The skiers are scheduled to leave Cape Artichesky on Severnaya Zemlya next week on

their 1,100 mile ski trek over the North Pole to Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island.

For more than three months of this hazardous journey, daily radio communication will be maintained between the expedition and the teams of Soviet and Canadian amateur radio operators at base stations in Severnaya Zemlya, Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island ...as well as Moscow, Dikson, Ottawa and Toronto. The special call sign for the main Canadian base station at Resolute Bay is CI8C which went into operation on February 24th. (QSL via Box 313; Don Mills; Ontario Canada M3C 2S7)

ICOM America provided all of the amateur radio equipment for the HF/VHF base stations as well as 2-meter handie-talkies which will be used by the skiers for position reports and communication with the supply drop aircraft.

Using a unique lashup of SARSAT/COSPAS, the search and rescue satellites and the UoSAT-OSCAR 11 amateur satellite with its "talking computer" onboard, the skiers will hear their location read to them over the 2-meter ham band as UoSAT passes overhead about every 100 minutes.

To publicize the expedition, the Canadian Department of Communications has authorized amateurs in the Northwest Territories (only) to use the special prefix CI8 from February 15 until June 15.

The Canadian Radio Relay League is offering a bilingual (English and Russian) "1988 Polar Bridge Commemorative Diploma" for 2-way amateur radio contacts with:

- (1.) three VE8 Northwest Territories stations;
- (2.) three different stations in Asiatic RSFSR of the USSR (Usually UA9, Ø or 3);
- (3.) one skitrek base camp station in either Canada or the USSR;
- (4.) one station from the National Capital Region of Ottawa and;
- (5.) one station from the National Capital Region of Moscow, USSR.

Nine contacts are required in all.

All QSO's must be made between February 15 and June 15. Application, certified

log data (do NOT send QSLs) and \$5 award fee (or 10 IRC's) go to: CRRL Awards Manager; Garry Hammond/VE3XN; 5 McLaren Avenue; Listowel, Ontario Canada N4W 3K1. A short-wave listener version of the award is also available for certified loggings.

Technology Report, Digital Audio Tape W2NSD/1 PROPOSES DAT COMPROMISE

Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, has stepped into the stalemate that has developed between the music recording industry and the latest audio consumer electronics breakthrough, the digital audio tape (DAT) recorder. House bill H.R.1384 barring DAT recorders recently received sub-committee approval. There is also a similar bill in the Senate, (S-506).

Green revealed his proposal while chairing a panel on DAT during January's Consumer Electronics Show held in Las Vegas, NV. The compromise would allow electronics manufacturers to import DAT recorders for a period of two years. At the end of that time, an independent study would be conducted to determine the effects of DAT on the sale of pre-recorded music.

If the study shows that the recording industry has suffered substantial losses due to unauthorized home and commercial duplication, electronics manufacturers will be asked to pay a royalty on blank DAT tape sales ...the proceeds of which will reimburse the recording industry.

DAT proponents point out that historically, similar technological advances (such as the analog cassette recorder and the VCR) have helped -- rather than harmed -- their respective industries.

In the February/March issue of the Green Congressional Technology Newsletter, Green points out that DAT isn't merely an entertainment medium. "I see incredible potential applications for digital tape (DT) as a computer storage medium," he says. "One tiny DAT cassette will hold ...1.2 gigabytes of (computer) data. In an address book, that's about 35 million names and addresses." Green adds, "At a time in our history when the U.S.

interest in not an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old." A certificate (optional) is also available for \$1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you within a two week period. P.O. #1001; Dallas, Texas 75207

is alarmingly behind in high-tech production, we should take every opportunity to capitalize on our strengths — one of which is computer software."

"The computer applications are mind-boggling," Green writes, "...reference material for doctors, lawyers, engineers; an encyclopedia; an unabridged dictionary that fits in your shirt pocket. But, until DAT recorders are available in this country, these computer applications can't be developed." Green foresees tiny microcomputers with DAT storage capacity equal to that of mini-computers ...even fiber-optic or satellite data delivery systems to update colossal DAT databases.

Green is now conducting a worldwide survey of DAT manufacturers and recording industry leaders to determine his compromise's popularity. The results will be published and made available to members of Congress and other interested parties. Green hopes his proposal will end the battle and free both computer and audio developers to take advantage of digital audio tape technology.

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INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY EVENT

Amateur stations in England, Ireland, Canada, Newfoundland, Italy and the United States will honor Guglielmo Marconi, the great Italian inventor who first conceived the idea of using electromagnetic waves for signalling. The International Marconi Day (IMD) celebration is scheduled for April 23rd, 1988, the Saturday nearest to Marconi's birthday.

GB4IMD in Cornwall, England, will operate from Poldhu Cove where Marconi carried out his first trans-Atlantic transmission. EI2IMD will be on from where Marconi carried out his first Irish experiments in Crookhaven. In the United States, K1VV/IMD will be at the Cape Cod South Wellfleet site of first USA to Europe contact in 1903.

The Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SNRA) will operate VO1IMD at Signal Hill in St. Johns, from the exact spot where the first trans-Atlantic signals were heard by Marconi on December 12, 1901, from Poldhu. The Sydney Amateur Radio Club of Nova Scotia will establish VE1IMD at the

Marconi Museum in Glace Bay from the site of first East/West trans-Atlantic transmission. IY4FGM will be operating from the Marconi birthplace in Bologna, Italy.

Phone (SSB) operation will be take place on five bands: 3.770-3.780 (80 Meters), 7.070-7,080 (40 Meters), 14.270-14.280 (20 Meters), 21.250-21.260 (15 Meters) and 28.530-28.540 (10 Meters.) A special award is offered to amateurs that work any five of the six International Marconi Day stations. (Award claims go to: Cornish Radio Amateur Club; P.O. Box #100; Truro, Cornwall, United Kingdom TR1 1XP.

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AMATEUR INDUSTRY MEETING IN MIAMI....

ARRL Executive Vice President, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, distributed an eleven typewritten report to members of industry at the last amateur industry meeting held in Miami a couple of weeks ago. Highlights of the report:

Docket 87-14: ARRL continues to fight FCC's proposed reallocation of 220-222 MHz to Land Mobile. ARRL and several thousand amateurs filed extensive comments. Dozens of Congressmen have written the FCC expressing support of the amateur position. "Empty (Commissioner) chairs" at the FCC and Private Radio Bureau personnel changes could affect the FCC's handling of this docket. The matter will probably come before the FCC in the second quarter.

Archie Comic Books: First printing (100,000) was shipped with 745 youngsters signing up for the Archie Radio Club as of November. A second printing (with 37,687 distributed) has resulted in 560 more members. Questionnaire sent to Archie Club members: 94% thought comic was helpful, 96% wanted to become hams, 77% working on a license ...and 22 had actually become amateur radio operators.

NEW WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO VIDEO: League ordered 1,300 with 444 copies on loan to clubs and instructors, 146 went to teachers, 96 copies given away (21 to National Geographic) ...75 to ARRL Section Managers. Ten one-inch video tapes went to Public/Educational broadcasters. With only 285 copies actually sold, League would like amateur

10 or more Quantity \$2.00 plus postage
5-9 \$2.50 \$3.50 plus postage
1 Ea. \$4.00 \$4.00
Test Manual: Novice Tech. or Gen.
HOLDING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES? We have them and need low-priced student manuals? We have them! Every manual contains every word-for-word question.
W5YI-VEC P.O. Box #10101-N Dallas, Texas 75207

REGULATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS

A one page primer on spectrum management

Since radio waves do not respect international boundaries, coordination among nations, radio services and stations within each service is required if operation is to remain interference free. Radiocommunication regulation in every nation is a government function.

The 150+ nation strong International Telegraph Union (ITU) was formed in 1865 to extend telegraphy circuits across national borders. Telegraph operators used to physically hand messages to their counterparts at their national border. Telegraph was changed to Telecommunication in 1932 to reflect expanded communication technology. In 1947, the ITU became a United Nations agency and moved from Berne to Geneva, Switzerland.

Delegations from the ITU nations meet periodically to insure international telecommunications order. The ITU allocation plan divides the world up into three geographical regions. North and South America are in Region 2. Their regional and international conferences conclude with agreement on the where specific types of operation will take place. Without this agreement, you wouldn't be able to communicate internationally by ham radio. The last general overhaul of the radio spectrum took place in 1979 at the World Administrative Radio Conference.

Administrations can get around internationally agreed upon spectrum allocations by invoking the legal maneuver of "taking an exception" at these conferences. Thus no country is really bound by any ITU agreement if they feel it is not in their best interest. Even if a nation fails to take an "exception", there is an escape clause which allows use of any band for any purpose as long as it does not cause interference to authorized services. Nations also have been known to interpret ITU agreements - and what constitutes interference. In the U.S., "Temporary", experimental, national defense, and emergency circuits can be authorized anywhere.

The basic document controlling telecommunications in the United States is the Communication Act of 1934. It established the

Federal Communications Commission, an independent agency charged with administering non-government wire and radio communication. The FCC does not regulate spectrum used by the U.S. government. That is done by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration, NTIA. The FCC allocates the radio spectrum in keeping with international agreement and §Part 2 of its Rules.

The last international radio conference, WARC-79, had some conditions in the fine print that apparently few amateurs are aware of. They have already shortened the ham bands (160 meters was reduced to make way for expanded AM broadcasting.) The VHF and higher level ham bands are particularly vulnerable. Improvements in satellite and addressable digital technology have transformed what was once considered short range spectrum into extremely valuable worldwide cost-effective data circuits.

Contrary to what you may think, the possibility that the 220-Mhz ham band could be reallocated to other services should not have come as a total surprise. In implementing the Final Acts of WARC-79, the FCC said (Docket 80-739, November 18, 1982) that although the ARRL (among others) wanted the international Fixed and Mobile 220-225 Mhz allocations deleted, "The current and future spectrum requirements for the 220-225 MHz band are undefined at the present time." The Commission further stated their intention to conduct a joint FCC/NTIA study to develop a permanent allocation for the 220-MHz band.

Docket 87-14 was the result. As you know, the FCC's Office of Science and Technology plans to divvy the 220-225 MHz band up with three megahertz going to the amateurs - and the lower two to Land Mobile narrow-band operation. Fortunately our three megahertz is where most amateur operation and all repeater operation takes place.

The amateur community should also be aware of U.S. WARC Exception No. 38. The United States reserved the right to operate fixed and mobile stations on a primary basis in the 890-960 MHz bands. The sparsely used 902-928 MHz ham band is a shared band ...and probably the site of the next spectrum attack.