

compatibility program under section 104(b) of the Act.

The FAA has completed its review of the noise exposure maps and related descriptions submitted by the Boca Raton Airport Authority. The specific maps under consideration are "2001 Noise Exposure Map with Existing Noise Compatibility Program" and "2006 Noise Exposure Map with Recommended Noise Compatibility Program" in the submission. The FAA has determined that these maps for Boca Raton Airport are in compliance with applicable requirements. This determination is effective on December 31, 2001. FAA's determination on an airport operator's noise exposure maps is limited to a finding that the maps were developed in accordance with the procedures contained in Appendix A of FAR part 150. Such determination does not constitute approval of the applicant's data, information or plans, or a commitment to approve a noise compatibility program or to fund the implementation of that program.

If questions arise concerning the precise relationship of specific properties to noise exposure contours depicted on a noise exposure map submitted under section 103 of the Act, it should be noted that the FAA is not involved in any way in determining the relative locations of specific properties with regard to the depicted noise contours, or in interpreting the noise exposure maps to resolve questions concerning, for example, which properties should be covered by the provisions of section 107 of the Act. These functions are inseparable from the ultimate land use control and planning responsibilities of local government. These local responsibilities are not changed in any way under part 150 or through FAA's review of noise exposure maps. Therefore, the responsibility for the detailed overlaying of noise exposures contours onto the map depicting properties on the surface rests exclusively with the airport operator which submitted those maps, or with those public agencies and planning agencies with which consultation is required under section 103 of the Act. The FAA has relied on the certification by the airport operator, under section 150.21 of FAR part 150, that the statutorily required consultation has been accomplished.

The FAA has formally received the noise compatibility program for Boca Raton Airport, also effective on December 31, 2001. Preliminary review of the submitted material indicates that it conforms to the requirements for the submittal of noise compatibility programs, but that further review will be

necessary prior to approval or disapproval of the program. The formal review period, limited by law to a maximum of 180 days, will be completed on or before June 30, 2002.

The FAA's detailed evaluation will be conducted under the provisions of 14 CFR part 150, section 150.33. The primary considerations in the evaluation process are whether the proposed measures may reduce the level of aviation safety, create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, or be reasonably consistent with obtaining the goal of reducing existing noncompatible land uses and preventing the introduction of additional noncompatible land uses.

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed program with specific reference to these factors. All comments, other than those properly addressed to local land use authorities, will be considered by the FAA to the extent practicable. Copies of the noise exposure maps, the FAA's evaluation of the maps, and the proposed noise compatibility program are available for examination at the following locations: Federal Aviation Administration, Orlando Airports District Office, 5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32822-5024.

Questions may be directed to the individual named above under the heading, **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Orlando, Florida, December 31, 2001.

W. Dean Stringer,

Manager, Orlando Airports District Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 198: Next-Generation Air/Ground Communications System (NEXCOM)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 198 meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of RTCA Special Committee 198: Next-Generation Air/Ground Communications System (NEXCOM).

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 23-25, 2002, starting at 9:00 am.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1828 L Street, Suite 805, Washington, DC, 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RTCA Secretariat, 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 805, Washington, DC, 20036; telephone (202) 833-9339; fax (202) 833-9434; Web site <http://www.rtca.org>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 198 meeting. The agenda will include:

- January 23:
- Opening Plenary Session (Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Review Minutes of Previous Meeting)
- Review and Act on Comments received during the Final Review and Comment Period for the Document *Next Generation Air/Ground Communications (NEXCOM) Principles of Operations VHF Digital Link (VDL) Mode 3*
 - Closing Plenary Session (Date and Place of Next Meeting)
 - January 24-25:
 - Working Group 3 Editorial and Final Changes to the VDL-3 Principles of Operation Document
 - Working Group 4, NEXCOM Plan, US National Airspace System (NAS) Plan for Transition to Air/Ground ICAO VDL-3 based Integrated Voice and Data
 - Working Group 5, NEXCOM Safety and Performance Requirements (SPR) Document

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 18, 2001.

Janice L. Peters,

FAA Special Assistant, RTCA Advisory Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 172: Future Air-Ground Communications in the Very High Frequency (VHF) Aeronautical Data Band (118-137 MHz)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 172 meeting.