

From the day they begin their active duty, members of the National Guard and Reserves must deal with the difficult challenge of paying their bills and extra living expenses while serving their country.

To help ease this burden, soldiers placed on active duty are entitled to a Basic Allowance of Housing, which pays for their housing costs. Soldiers receive it when they do not live on a military base. The exact amount depends on grade, dependency status, and geographic location.

If members of the National Guard and Reserves serve less than 140 days, they receive Level II Basic Allowance of Housing. If they serve more than 140 days, they receive Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

Level II Basic Allowance of Housing is similar to the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing, but it does not include adjustments for expensive housing markets, such as Honolulu or New York City.

This policy hurts soldiers placed on short tours of duty in expensive housing markets. For example, an O-1 officer in Honolulu will receive \$410.70 per month under Level II. Under Level I, that same soldier would receive \$953.00.

The current law costs soldiers hundreds of dollars every month. Soldiers should not have to wait 140 days before receiving the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

On November 13, 2001, I introduced H.R. 3280 to correct this. It will reduce the number of active duty days required for the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing from 140 to 60 days.

We ask members of the National Guard and Reserves to serve without hesitation to defend our nation. We must ensure that all soldiers in the military are paid enough money to cover their housing costs.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and support H.R. 3280.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MAGUIRE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Cathy Maguire as she completes her tenure as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).

Fifty-two years ago, when VICA was founded, the San Fernando Valley was a predominantly rural and agricultural area north of Los Angeles; today, the Valley is a vital part of our nation's second-largest metropolitan area—thanks in part to the leadership of VICA.

Since Cathy Maguire was elected Chairman of VICA in 1999, the Valley business commu-

nity has benefitted from having a tenacious, committed and vocal advocate with representation at all levels of government from L.A. City Hall to Capitol Hill.

Cathy Maguire has led two delegations of business leaders to our nation's capitol to meet with United States Senators, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and senior staff of both the Clintons and Bush Administrations.

VICA has taken a leadership role on Social Security reform, small business development, aviation and airports, water quality and reliability, a patient's bill of rights and telecommunications issues under the keen leadership of Cathy Maguire.

As California faced an energy crisis this year, VICA played an important role in discussing solutions with the Administration as well as with our colleagues in Congress—working to ensure that California had reliable, affordable supplies of energy.

And while our nation mourned the losses of September 11, 2001, VICA and its Chairman have worked to minimize the impacts on Southern California's economy, convening the region's first Economic Impacts Summit and advocating in Washington on behalf of an economic stimulus for local businesses impacted by the tragic events.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join us in honoring Cathy Maguire for her leadership and accomplishments as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2001, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call number 465, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 2299, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2002.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 465.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DAVID PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, David Peoples serves as a Police Officer in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has been named "Police Officer of the Month" by the National Law Enforcer's Memorial Fund for his unmatched service to his community; and;

Whereas, Mr. Peoples is helpful, honest, active, hardworking and dedicated to both his department and law enforcement; and,

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has received the "Exceptional Service Medal," the "Life Saving Medal" and the "Silver Torch" for his efforts in saving and protecting the citizens of Ohio;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing David Peoples for his commitment and dedication to making lives better in

our area. I am honored to call him a constituent.

HOMELAND EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS (HERO) ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, Tim Grimmond, the Police Chief of El Segundo, a small town in my district, came to me with a little problem called "public safety radio interoperability."

Basically, he explained, police departments are organized by city and county jurisdictions. Criminals are not.

And the radios carried by the police in El Segundo were not always compatible with the radios carried by the L.A. County sheriffs or police departments in neighboring towns like Redondo and Manhattan Beach.

As a result, law enforcement agencies pursuing a suspect couldn't talk to each other on the radio. They sometimes resorted to hand signals out car windows to communicate. Or they used a jerry-rigged system of radio-patching and multiple radios to make it work.

The problem was not with the equipment. The problem was the shortage of spectrum—the airwaves used for radio and TV.

Police and fire departments had not been allocated enough of the spectrum for their radios to be interoperable.

In response to Chief Grimmond's concerns, I introduced legislation that directed the FCC to license unused frequencies to public safety agencies. This bill became law.

The same year, Congress took another major step towards interoperability. It directed the FCC to allocate to public safety users 24 megahertz of spectrum licensed to analog television stations. Congress set a deadline of 2006 for that transition.

Unfortunately, that law also left a big loophole. It said the TV stations don't have to move to new spectrum until 85 percent of the household have a TV that can receive digital TV signals.

Currently, only 1 percent of homes in the U.S. meet that criteria.

So unless we act now, public safety agencies will never be able to use the spectrum that Congress promised them back in 1997.

That means * * * fire departments will continue to have problems talking at the scenes of major fires. Police and sheriff's departments chasing a suspect across city and county jurisdictions will still not be able to communicate by radio. Police officers on the beat will still worry about hitting a "dead spot" where their radios don't work because of interference or poor signal penetration.

The HERO Act that I and my colleagues, Rep. WELDON of PA, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MORAN of VA, Mr. MCINTYRE, BALLENGER, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN are introducing here today eliminates that 85 percent threshold requirement—but only for channels 63, 64, 68 and 69, which the FCC allocated to public safety at Congress' direction in 1997.

Our bill directs the FCC to assign the frequencies Congress promised to public safety agencies by the end of 2006.

This legislation is supported virtually every public safety and municipal organization, including * * *.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute; the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major County Sheriff's Association; the National League of Cities, the National Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties; the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Attached to this statement are letters of support for the legislation.

They all agree: Public safety needs this spectrum. And Congress should keep its commitment.

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES
INSTITUTE.

Washington, DC, November 28, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: As Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee, I extend to you the support of the committee for the Homeland Emergency Response Operations Network Act.

Composed of 40 national fire and emergency services organizations, the NAC provides counsel to CFSI on public safety issues. Among the organizations that serve on this committee are the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Service Training Association, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the North American Fire Training Directors. These are the associations that represent the interest of our 1.2 million first responders.

Following the release of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee report in 1996, CFSI has worked aggressively in support of the report's recommendations. First and foremost is the set aside of 24 megahertz of broadcast spectrum for public safety use. This spectrum will address an immediate need of public safety, clearing the way for interoperable wireless communication systems.

Following the terrorists attacks on September 11th, the need for this spectrum has become a top priority for public safety. We can no longer afford to run the risk of responding to large-scale disasters without interoperable communication systems. Otherwise, we will jeopardize the lives of all first responders at the scene. Congress needs to remove the 85 percent exemption on penetration of digital television receivers and any other exemptions, and hold firm on the previously set 2006 deadline in the best interest of public safety!

I look forward to working with you, Congressman Curt Weldon and all other federal legislators who will offer their support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS COMPTON,
Chair, National Advisory Committee.

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials-International, Inc and its

15,000 members, I want to thank you for introducing legislation to address the serious radio spectrum issues facing our nation's police, fire, EMS, and other public safety agencies. Your proposed legislation would establish a firm date for clearing television broadcast stations from spectrum allocated for public safety radio systems pursuant to a 1997 Congressional mandate.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated yet again that public safety personnel all too often lack access to sufficient radio spectrum to provide effective and interoperable communications when responding to emergencies. On a day-to-day basis, public safety personnel from different agencies and jurisdictions are often unable to communicate at emergency scenes, usually because spectrum shortages have forced them to operate their radio systems over different, incompatible frequency bands. In many metropolitan areas, public safety personnel also confront dangerous radio frequency congestion, again due to the inadequacy of public safety spectrum allocations.

These problems, and proposed solutions, were documented by the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) in a report dated September 11, 1996. Among PSWAC's recommendations was that approximately 25 MHz of new radio spectrum be made available for public safety within five years. Congress required such an allocation in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the FCC responded with a specific spectrum allocation in 1998. However, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon exactly five years after the PSWAC report, public safety personnel responding to those horrific events were still unable to use the newly allocated spectrum. The difficulty is that the spectrum remains blocked by ongoing television broadcast operations in much of the nation (including New York and Washington).

The legislation that you are offering will establish a firm date for television stations to vacate spectrum already allocated for public safety. If adopted, the legislation will open the door for state and local governments to plan, fund, and even construct the new radio systems they need, confident that the necessary radio spectrum will be available for use on a specific date. We hope that your colleagues in Congress will give this matter immediate and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

GLEN NASH,

President.

MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Minneapolis, MN, December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: The members of the Major County Sheriffs' Association and other public safety organizations in the United States continue to be in urgent need of additional radio spectrum to safely perform their mission critical duties.

In response to that need, in 1997 the Congress directed the FCC to make 24 MHz of spectrum (currently TV Channels 63, 64, 68, 69) available for use by public safety. Unfortunately the legislation was linked to transition of TV stations in those channels from analog to digital signals and there is no date-certain deadline by which public safety will be able to use this spectrum.

We are in support of legislation to be known as "THE HOMELAND AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS (H.E.R.O.) ACT" that would require current TV Broadcast Incumbents on those channels to vacate that spectrum for use by public safety no later than December 31, 2006.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in Congress who will be intro-

ducing this legislation that is so urgently needed by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Respectfully,

S/PATRICK D. MCGOWAN,
President.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS
OF POLICE,

Alexandria, VA, December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our support for the Homeland and Emergency Response Operations (H.E.R.O.) Act. As you know, the IACP is the world oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives with more than 18,000 members in 100 countries.

As you are aware, law enforcement and other public safety organizations in the United States are in critical need of additional radio spectrum to safely perform their mission critical duties. In response to that need, in 1997 Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make 24 MHz of spectrum (currently used by television channels 63, 64, 68, 69) available for use by public safety. Unfortunately, the legislation was linked to the transition of television stations on those channels from analog to digital signal and there is no specific deadline by which this spectrum will be available for public safety use.

The public safety community, including the IACP, has repeatedly called on the FCC to assign this much needed spectrum to public safety in order to achieve critical interoperability in communications between agencies. For example, the agencies that responded to the terrorist attack on the Pentagon were unable to communicate with each other because they lacked the required spectrum for interoperable radio communications. Consequently, the IACP strongly supports the H.E.R.O. Act, which would require current television stations using those channels to vacate the spectrum for use by public safety no later than December 31, 2006.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in Congress who will be introducing this legislation that is so urgently needed by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM B. BERGER,
President.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF FIRE CHIEFS,

Fairfax, VA, November 30, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: The International Association of Fire Chiefs and, indeed, America's fire and emergency service, fully supports the Homeland Emergency Response Operations (HERO) Act to provide for the expected and increased assignment of spectrum for public safety.

In 1996 the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee reported to Congress on the needs for additional spectrum for public safety. In 1997 Congress responded to one of the recommendations by mandating that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allocate 24 MHz of spectrum for the exclusive use of public safety from the 700 MHz band occupied by television channels 60-69. The FCC complied; channels 63, 64, 68 and 69 have been reserved for use by public safety agencies. The FCC has promulgated rules for the 700 MHz public safety band which, when implemented, will provide much needed additional spectrum for both voice and data communication, and improve interoperability among 700 MHz band users.

These very positive developments are contingent on television stations vacating this spectrum by 2006—a provision in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. The major barrier is a provision in that same law that allows stations to keep their analog channels beyond 2006 until at least 85% of the households in the relevant market have access to digital television signals. The problem, in short, is that there is no time certain for clearing the band for public safety. Neither public safety agencies nor radio equipment manufacturers can proceed until there is certainty. The benefits of this new spectrum will not be available to public safety until this current uncertainty is rectified.

The HERO Act addresses the issue of band clearing by providing a date certain that this spectrum will be available for public safety. This is consistent with the original intent of Congress to provide public safety with the key element of command and control—communications. Enhanced communications capability will clearly enable America's fire and emergency service to better deal with large scale incidents, natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

Very truly yours,

CHIEF JOHN M. BUCKMAN,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES,
December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House
Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), I would like to commend you, and Representative Curt Weldon, for developing the, "Homeland Emergency Response Operations (HERO) Act."

The HERO Act is fully consistent with NACo's policy on releasing the 700 MHz band for public safety purposes, which reads as follows:

"Improve Public Safety and Emergency Management Communications: Increase interoperability for both voice and data, release additional spectrum in the 700 MHz band for public safety and emergency management use, and eliminate interference problems in public safety communications."

NACo believes it is critical that the 700 MHz band be made available at a date certain. This would facilitate counties making appropriate plans for utilization of the spectrum, develop solutions to the interoperability challenges for both voice and data, and allow the private sector to provide the technologies and equipment necessary to make for efficient utilization of the spectrum.

Clearly the events of September 11th bring into focus the important role interoper-

ability has in disaster response and making this spectrum available will enhance our ability to carry out our role as "first responders".

Thank you for your leadership.
Sincerely,

JAVIER GONZALES,
President,
National Association of Counties
Commissioner, Santa Fe, NM.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON
INVESTIGATORS, INC.,
St. Louis, MO, November 30, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: The International Association of Arson Investigators is pleased to endorse the "Homeland Emergency Response Operations Network Act".

This vital legislation is long overdue. Expedited assignment of the 761-776 and 794-806 megahertz to public safety use will provide much needed additional radio spectrum for America's emergency responders.

As one of the nation's major fire service groups we look forward to standing with you at next week's press conference. Following introduction we would be honored to work to seek passage of this important measure.

Sincerely,
STEPHEN P. AUSTIN,
Director of Governmental Relations.