COMMANDER
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

13 November 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR REGION AND WING COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Communications Equipment Sunset Date

1. On 3 November 2001, the NEC approved an exception to the 31 December 2001, communications equipment sunset date. This move was deemed necessary in order to clear up confusion which seems to have resulted from the National Board's related action on 18 August.

2. The NEC decision is being implemented by a change to the Communications Strategic Plan, dated 1 December 1998, which is the source document for the sunset date. Program Milestone #2, page 7, is hereby replaced with the following:

> Milestone #2. The date after which VHF/FM equipment which does not meet current NTIA "wideband" standards cannot operate in the CAP communications system. The date for this milestone is 31 December 2001. An exception is allowed for radios meeting the following description: Radios which are a) manufactured for the band in which they are being used without after-market modification, b) in CAP use prior to 3 November 2001, c) meet all NTIA transmitter specifications for the band in which they are being used, and d) meet all NTIA receiver specifications with the exception that the receiver must be at least -80db in spurious rejection. Radios meeting these criteria may continue to operate in the CAP communications system (defined as those frequencies in the 138 – 150.8 federal LMR band assigned to CAP by the Air Force) until 31 December 2003, or until they are replaced, whichever is sooner. All other VHF/FM equipment not meeting NTIA wideband specifications, and not qualifying for the exemption detailed above, will be removed from service on CAP frequencies by 31 December 2001.

3. The primary intent of this exception is to allow the continued use of the Yaesu Vertex FTL-2011 installed in many of our aircraft for up to another two years, if necessary, until those radios can be replaced. National Headquarters will work to ensure all wings have a compliant radio installed by the end of this exception period. Any equipment not meeting the technical specifications listed above are still "sunsetted" as planned on 31 December 2001.

4. Please note that this exception is very limited and intended only to maintain a minimum mission-essential communications capability while preserving the communications program direction as enacted in 1998. It is very important that we demonstrate to the Air Force and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that we continue to be intent on meeting the requirements of the federal directives as quickly as possible and take these directives very seriously.

5. In addition to the FTL-2011 in our aircraft, there may also be other radios which remain usable in CAP service for a limited time as a result of this exception. The extent of this impact has not been established, however, members can research a radio they

feel may qualify for this exception by utilizing the NTC equipment compliance database at www.ntc.cap.gov/comm/.

6. It is the responsibility of the commander to ensure that this directive is observed and non-compliant equipment is, indeed, removed from service on our Air Force-assigned frequencies. All commanders are requested to provide guidance and support to their communications managers as we take this very important step toward the future of our mission critical communications system.

7. Your support of these initiatives is very much appreciated.

RICHARD L. BOWLING
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Commander