

June 21, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: ET Docket No. 05-183**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My name is Mike Thieman and I have been a Deputy Sheriff for 29 years serving the Orange County Sheriff's Department in Orlando. I have a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Rollins College and have been certified in electronic technology. For the past 13 years I have served in the Narcotics/Organized Crime Task Force where I created the Electronic Surveillance Support Unit. I participated in the creation of the S.W.A.T. electronic support team, of which I have been a member for the last six years and team leader for the past four years.

Orange County is one of seven counties comprising the area known as Central Florida, is about 60 miles away from the Atlantic coastline, and home to Disney World and Universal Studios. It also contains one of the South's largest metropolitan areas, Orlando Florida. Most importantly, Orange County has a population of approximately 4 million and receives 49 million visitors each year.

Orange County's population; tourism; proximity to the Atlantic coast and one of Florida's gateways to Latin America, provides additional responsibilities and challenges to reduce crime and stopping drug trafficking. This often requires obtaining authorized suspect or location surveillance. These operations frequently conducted undercover or in other very dangerous circumstances, require that we do our best to secure tactical safety as the operation is executed. For example, the first few minutes of a drug raid, whether conducted under normal search warrant conditions, or under a so-called "no-knock" warrant, can be the most dangerous for even the most seasoned, veteran officers. Sometimes we must use a battering ram to gain entry quickly enough to capture evidence or prevent suspects from fleeing the scene before they can be apprehended. The S.W.A.T. technical unit is the primary responders to S.W.A.T. type situations, including potential terrorist and hostage incidents. It is our responsibility to establish wiretaps and surveillance techniques. These are dangerous, life threatening operations. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to provide the greatest tactical safety possible as protection for our officers who place their lives on the line to secure our safety.

In my years on-the-job, I have personally had to stick my head up or my hand out at times when I knew I could be shot. Seeing around that corner, over the top or in the next room would have made a huge difference. I have learned that even the smallest additional tactical advantage can

make a life and death difference. It is my job to make sure we have pursued every such advantage and many times they employ the 2.4GHz band. For example, we use robot systems that operate at between 5 to 10 watts in the lower 2.4GHz band and a helicopter with a telecommunications downlink that operates in the 2.4 GHz band just below the unlicensed ISM band. Overall, there is significant activity in the 2.4GHz band that is relied upon for safety in highly dangerous situations. We have never had a problem with incidents of interference to local unlicensed devices or with interference to our own equipment.

I have been looking for a tool like the Remington Eyeball R1 for years. This device can be thrown into a tactical environment and immediately provide valuable insight just before engagement that can save lives. I showed the Eye Ball to numerous county teams as part of our regular technical product reviews; and found that even the most anti-technology S.W.A.T. members find extreme value in have a versatile life saving tool like the Eye Ball. Being able to see the environment before entering will save not only officers' lives, but also the lives of our citizens and visitors.

I have read the Cisco comments in Docket 05-183. Although we have not deployed mobile access point routers, I understand from their comments that some departments have and that others are planning to do so. It is my opinion that the operational deployment of WiFi for command and control, even in special S.W.A.T. situations will be sufficiently removed from the locale of the Eyeball R1 such that the Eye Ball R1 would not cause any interference or operational problems.

I strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to grant the relief sought by Remington so that the Eyeball R1 may be added to our arsenal of tactical equipment.

Sincerely,



Michael Thieman  
Deputy, Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Narcotics/Organized Crime Task Force  
407-836-9751

2500 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32804