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IN REPLY REFER TO:

FCC12-53
14 Aug 12

From: Maj Vitkovitsky, Roman P, XXX XX 0630/0602 Defense
Information Systems Agency, ATTN: SPI
To: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Subj: REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON UTILIZING RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE AERIAL
COMMUNICATIONS ARCHITECTURE IN RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY

Ref: (a) FCC PS DOCKET NO. 11-15

1. I learned of the FCC request for comment on Deployable Aerial Communication Architecture (DACA) via professional colleagues and submit my own experience with using related technologies. In response to inquiries on FCC 12-53 PS No. 12-53, Section III, paragraph 10, page 5 I would like to add my comments to the entities cited in footnote 22. There are specific questions regarding historical and current use by the US military; applicable use cases and the situations involved; the military's general experience with this technology; and any costs and benefits that should be considered.

2. My organization, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU), deployed twice with the Space Data product, "Combat SkySat." We have used them in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN and OPERATION UNIFIED PROTECTOR, among other named operations, exercises and tasks.

3. In response to Space Data Corporation's 25 July 2012 comments on PS Docket 11-15, it is a fact that Marines have used DACA to support several mission sets including humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery, counter-terror operations, strike operations and personnel recovery missions.

4. Humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery were most recently demonstrated during the Pakistan floods of 2010. While supporting operations in Pakistan and conducting personnel recovery missions, we utilized DACA to extend an effective communications umbrella to exercise command and control over military forces and assets. The extended line of sight provided by a high-altitude antenna was a critical part of our ability to operate over distances measured across thousands of linear miles.

5. National tasking in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) geographic region saw the utilization of DACA to support

numerous special missions. The Combat SkySat helped to reduce the overall risk to troops and equipment, enabling the various echelons of command to accept mission parameters and operate to good effect.

6. Strike operations were sustained during deployment to support OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN using both high altitude balloons and low-altitude, tethered aerostats. In Afghanistan, DACA increased area security and heightened safety by extending the ranges of patrols and expediting requests for assistance and combined arms support.

7. DACA was a key factor which allowed principal components to be staged further from Libya during US strike operations. The operational costs of an MV-22B approach \$11,000 per hour, whereas a SkySat launch bore a \$10,000 price tag and could operate for 8 hours. Utilizing lofted communications architecture added flexibility and capability to the Commander's list of available options, removing risk of exposure by critical air personnel and equipment to anti-air defenses.

8. Additional sections from the Space Data comments further explain the particulars of our operations. These are a matter of public record which can be discussed at length as needed.

9. Thank you for your consideration. POC for this communication is Maj Roman Vitkovitsky, email roman.p.vitkovitsky.mil@mail.mil and phone (301) 225-8454 at Ft Meade, MD.



Roman P. Vitkovitsky