



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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ENHANCED MILITARY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO SERVICEMEMBERS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Washington, DC – The FCC has launched an enhanced version of its “Calling Home” program, originally begun last May, which will provide to members of the armed services and their families, valuable information on telephone services, and emphasize the Commission’s role as the military’s federal telecommunications advocate.

In May 2002, the Commission launched the original “Calling Home” campaign. Because of the dramatic rise in the number of U.S. military personnel posted abroad since last May, the Commission recognized a need for expanding and reemphasizing this program at this time.

The new campaign has includes not just information on how to save money when calling home, but also information to help military families make informed choices on telecom goods and services and let them know the services available through the FCC.

The FCC is providing packets of valuable information to approximately 300 Relocation Offices or Family Services Centers throughout the United States and about 70 U.S. military bases abroad. Much of the information is available in English and Spanish.

The information packet contains five brochures: “Calling Home: What You Should Know – A Guide for the U.S. Military;” “Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone,” which provides information on phone service subsidies available to low income families; “About the FCC: A Consumer Guide to Our Organization, Functions and Procedures;” “International Long Distance Calling;” and, “What You Should Know about Wireless Phone Service.” In addition, the packets contain many FCC Consumer Alerts, warning consumers about telephone scams and frauds of which they should be aware, and many FCC Fact Sheets which provide valuable information on important issues such as slamming, cramming, and telemarketing abuses.

K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC’s Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, said, “At this time we are thinking about our military service personnel deployed abroad, as well as their families at home. By distributing this information, we at the FCC want to do our part to support our military families and help them stay in touch inexpensively, take advantage of low income assistance programs, avoid scams, and know that we are a resource for information.”

The FCC has a Web site that focuses solely on issues of interest to the military, www.fcc.gov/cgb/military.

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