



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
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CONCORD, NH 03301-5607

NGNH-TAG

12 March 2010

Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

On behalf of the New Hampshire National Guard (NHNG), I wish to express my support for the statewide broadband proposal submitted by the University of New Hampshire to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2 program.

Though the NHNG would not directly or indirectly receive any grant funds, award of the BTOP grant would facilitate the completion of the NHNG wireless wide area network. Completion of this network requires the use of NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) tower space. That space will become available with the modernization and consolidation of existing equipment from other State agencies made possible with NTIA's grant. The NHNG network was conceived to lower costs while providing significant improvement in the Guard's ability to support homeland defense and disaster recovery missions in the field. The NHNG wireless wide area network was designed with the assistance of the United States Army Information Systems Engineering Command, which completed a feasibility study of the project in May 2007.

One of the goals of the NHNG project is to increase available bandwidth between the NHNG headquarters and thirteen facilities located throughout the State. The current circuits, point-to-point T-1s at larger facilities and frame-relay at smaller sites, no longer meet organizational bandwidth requirements. Testing of radios between the NHNG headquarters and armory in Manchester have yielded a 27-fold increase in bandwidth over the existing T1 circuit. The project will also establish a dedicated circuit between the NHNG headquarters and Pease Air National Guard Base for the first time.

Also, the NHNG seeks significant reduction in its annual telecommunications overhead. Maintenance of the T-1/frame relay circuits costs the Department of Defense over \$190,500 annually. The NHNG estimates an ROI of less than 3 ½ years for this project after an initial investment in wireless equipment and installation provided through other funding sources.

Perhaps most importantly, point-of-presence on the DRED communication towers will provide the National Guard the ability to extend network support to soldiers/airmen in the field. This capability is especially important in instances where terrain or available infrastructure make FM or cellular communication difficult, as was the case when the NHNG responded to severe flooding in the SW corner of the State in October 2005. This network support would also include the NHNG Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) and 12<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) equipment, which utilize a 1.2-meter Ku Band satellite communications system for reach back. The capability to connect to the wireless network via the DRED towers would greatly increase bandwidth available to these systems and provide a backup option for reach back where one doesn't exist now. The JISCC provides voice, data, video and radio accessibility and interoperability between local, state and federal agencies. The 12<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) supports civil authorities at domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incident sites by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, and advising on response measures.

In summary, completion of the NHNG wireless wide area network is predicated upon resources (tower space) that will become available with the modernization of other State networks that a favorable NTIA response to New Hampshire's BTOP Round 2 request would bring about. The NHNG wireless wide area network would greatly enhance our ability to conduct our missions in support of State and federal authorities, and therefore has my enthusiastic endorsement. I hope the grant request receives the endorsement of the NTIA as well.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM N. REDDEL III  
Major General, NH National Guard  
The Adjutant General