

**Resolution Concerning International Long Distance
Charges from Troops in the Persian Gulf**

WHEREAS, President George Bush and the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission are considering the importance of telephone service for the troops in the Persian Gulf and to their families; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing concern in the United States regarding the extremely high costs of international telephone service by our troops in Saudi Arabia and their families; and

WHEREAS, The telephone companies in the United States and their overseas service tariffs are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Saudi Arabian government imposes a surcharge on calls originating from its country even when no Saudi network equipment is used for the calls from our troops; and

WHEREAS, The morale of the United States troops is bolstered by the ability to communicate with their families; and

WHEREAS, The costs of telephone services have created tremendous burdens on the families of the United States soldiers in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, The Public Utility Commission of Texas gave emergency approval on February 13, 1991 to a rule prohibiting disconnection of telephone service for failure to pay for calls originating in a war zone, and to institute customer payment options for those calls; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., in recognition of the sacrifices borne by the men and women of the United States Armed Forces participating in Operation Desert Storm, and by their families, hereby requests and urges President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to urge the Saudi Arabian government to eliminate its surcharge (accounting rate) on the calls made by American troops; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Federal Communications Commission ensure that any reduction of the surcharge currently imposed by the Saudi Arabian government is passed on to those persons billed for the calls; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the NARUC take necessary actions to prevent disconnection of telephone services for inability to pay for the calls made by American troops from the war zone, and to institute payment options for those calls; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our domestic long distance telephone companies

be commended for providing telecommunications services for our troops and their efforts in further reducing the excessive costs of international calls; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NARUC acknowledges and commends President Bush for his efforts to provide lower priced communications services to our troops in the Persian Gulf.

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications

Adopted February 27, 1991

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