

## ABSTRACT

Nation Building, Spectrum Management and Telecommunications in Iraq

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The paper describes the author's experiences as the Iraqi radio frequency spectrum manager and a telecommunications adviser during his nine months, June 2003-March 2004, in Iraq., acting for all practical purposes as a combined Iraqi national FCC and NTIA. He was on leave from NTIA worked for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Ministry of Communications that advised the Iraqis. The first action was to develop a national table of frequency allocations, working in conjunction with the Iraqi spectrum managers and the Coalition military spectrum managers. The joint plan was necessary to avoid interference and chaotic situations, and to bring some order to the spectrum management process. The joint table divided the spectrum bands into three categories: 1) bands for exclusive use by the military; 2) bands for exclusive use by civilians; and 3) shared bands. There was tremendous demand for broadcasting stations, so the next action was to develop national allotment tables for FM radio and television broadcasting, with the plans loosely following the ITU regional plans that were developed in 1984 and 1986. It was then necessary to develop license application forms for the various services such as land mobile, FM radio and TV broadcasting, aeronautical radionavigation services, fixed services, and fixed and mobile satellite Earth stations. The license forms were drafted, and brief rules were developed for the major services such as broadcasting and land mobile stations. The three national cellular telecommunications licenses, a complex 30-page document, were drafted and issued to the winning bidders. Daily activities included providing frequency assignments to the many private security firms in Iraq. Weekly meetings were held with the Iraqi spectrum managers to coordinate frequency assignments, exchange information, and discuss and develop spectrum management and telecommunications policies.