



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE AGENCY  
2461 EISENHOWER AVENUE STE 814  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22331-0006

October 20, 2008

Stephen Sharfman, General Counsel  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
United States Postal Service

Dear Mr. Sharfman,

The Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA), as an extension of the United States Postal Service (USPS), would like to take this opportunity to provide input to the proposed rules for 39 CFR Parts 3001 and 3050. The following information contains draft comments pending approval from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

MPSA would like to comment specifically on Section III B 7 regarding the Universal Service Obligation. MPSA supports the USPS obligation to provide the legally mandated postal service to all military installations. Many of the installations are similar in scope to the "rural areas, communities, and small towns" as quoted in this section. The Commission's report requirement will provide an impetus to ensure all military installations receive service similar to that provided to civilian communities and a recognition of the cost associated with this public service.

A 2005 Defense Business Board report concluded that the Department of Defense (DoD) was unable to calculate the true costs of mail on military installations. While DoD will soon begin the process of calculating the cost of service support it provides to USPS in terms of mail facilities and delivery, this proposed rule in the above-cited section would provide further transparency to the true costs, revenues, and shared responsibilities associated with providing mail to servicemembers and military organizations residing on our bases.

We applaud the Postal Regulatory Commission on this rule and look forward to reviewing the data. We appreciate your support of America's servicemembers. The MPSA point of contact is Mr. Peter Graeve, (703) 325-8604 or [graevep@conus.army.mil](mailto:graevep@conus.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Ernst", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

David L. Ernst  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Deputy Director