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NPSTC Makes Large Strides Toward Consensus Agreement on Common Channel Names for Public Safety

(Littleton, Colorado, March 8, 2007)—On February 5, 2007, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) hosted a Common Radio Channel Naming Forum to update and gain a consensus agreement on the Public Safety National Coordinating Committee's (NCC) 2003 "*Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels*."

The Forum, attended by about 60 persons, with additional attendance via teleconference, heard presentations on alternative naming plans to the NCC scheme from California, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and the National Capital Region. Following dynamic discussions, consensus was reached on a Common Radio Channel Naming format. A Report of Committee has been developed for public review and comment, prior to submission of a final modified "*NCC/NPSTC Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels*" to the NPSTC Governing Board for adoption at the June 13, 2007, meeting. NPSTC will be accepting comments on the Report of Committee until May 21, 2007.

NPSTC has stated that the lack of a common nomenclature and the lack of immediate communications capability is a significant impediment to public safety's ability to respond to multi-agency incidents, and that a common nomenclature will make a tangible difference in public safety interoperability. NPSTC has recognized that there has been some confusion and dissent on the proposed NCC common nomenclature and consequently hosted the Forum to encourage open discussion and alternate recommendations from public safety entities.

The task group recommended that this Report be placed on Public Notice for a 90-day comment period. Following editing and the addition of footnotes, the Final Report will be placed on the agenda for adoption at NPSTC's June meeting. It is suggested that implementation occur as follows—for spectrum below 512 MHz, as agencies narrowband; in 800 MHz, as agencies reband; and, in 700 MHz, as new systems come on, at their earliest convenience.

NPSTC urges public safety entities to visit <http://www.npstc.org/channelNaming.jsp> to make additional comments or review the recommendations. Should any reply generate a requirement to address an issue in a public setting, an additional forum will be scheduled in conjunction with the quarterly NPSTC meetings June 11-12, 2007 in Denver, Colorado.

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.