



NPSTC Commends FCC's Decision to Promote Nationwide Interoperable Broadband Network for Public Safety in the 700 MHz Band

Member Organizations

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
American Radio Relay League
American Red Cross
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
Forestry Conservation Communications Association
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of Emergency Managers
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Municipal Signal Association
National Association of State Chief Information Officers
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of State Telecommunications Directors

Liaison Organizations

Federal Communications Commission
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Telecommunications Industry Association
US Department of Agriculture
US Department of Justice
NIJ CommTech Program
US Department of Homeland Security
FEMA
Office of Emergency Communications
Office of Interoperability and Compatibility
SAFECOM Program
US Department of Interior

(Littleton, Colorado, August 01, 2007)—The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) commends the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its ruling promoting public safety's needs for a nationwide, broadband network, to be built out through a public safety/commercial partnership in the 700 MHz band. Yesterday the FCC announced its plans to revise the 700 MHz rules that will advance interoperability for public safety.

"We applaud the FCC for its decision, which prioritizes first responders' need for 21st century communications capabilities," said Chief Harlin McEwen, Chairman of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Communications & Technology Committee and NPSTC Governing Board member. "While we still need to see the text of the Report and Order, today's announcement is a critical step for the public safety community in our quest to gain an advanced broadband network that will keep pace with our continually expanding duties."

"On behalf of the men and women who serve and protect America's communities, we extend our thanks to Chairman Kevin Martin and all the FCC Commissioners," Alan Caldwell, senior advisor to the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Government Relations Department and NPSTC Governing Board member, said. "Their careful consideration and unwavering commitment to do what's best for public safety will improve emergency communications – and save lives."

The FCC's Order establishes a framework for a 700 MHz public safety/private partnership between the licensee for one of the commercial spectrum blocks and the licensee for the public safety broadband spectrum. The commercial licensee will build out a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for the use of public safety that the Commission expects "will facilitate effective communications among first responders not just in emergencies, but as part of cooperative communications plans that will enable first responders from different disciplines, such as police and fire departments, and jurisdictions to work together in emergency preparedness and response."

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