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Adopting a nationwide federated ICAM solution is an important step for information sharing across the public safety community and will fundamentally improve the ability to save lives and protect property. Public safety needs assurance the information they share is secured against outside threats and accessible only to authorized entities. Federated ICAM solutions address these concerns by promoting collaboration and mutual trust by establishing Trust Frameworks among participating organizations.

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), in agreement with the SAFECOM Program and the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, encourages the public safety community to leverage the Trustmark Framework and implement ICAM solutions consistent and interoperable with the Trustmark Framework.

What Is ICAM? ICAM stands for **Identity, Credential,** and **Access Management**. It refers to a comprehensive approach for handling digital identities, credentials, and access control. ICAM helps to address the growing data management, interoperability, and cybersecurity challenges facing public safety today. **Federated solutions** refer to having a common set of policies, practices, and protocols to manage the identity and trust of IT users and devices across organizations. It includes the ability to link an electronic identity and attributes stored across multiple identity management systems.

The **Trustmark Framework** is a way to achieve interoperability between various identity federations without requiring explicit, written bilateral agreements. Currently in use by several law enforcement organizations, the Trustmark Framework establishes a mechanism for codifying and reusing components of different ICAM solutions in an attempt to achieve greater adaptability, interoperability, and cost savings.

As the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) is built, public safety can take advantage of a more reliable network. This network will enable public safety agencies nationwide to exchange information across jurisdictional and disciplinary boundaries, from virtually any location, using a wide variety of mobile devices.

With this opportunity comes the challenge of protecting the integrity and security of the network and the privacy and confidentiality of the data that is accessed. Achieving this mission will require FirstNet to develop strategies, standards, and conventions to ensure interoperability, security, and efficient operation of the network. The Trustmark Framework provides a template for creating nationwide interoperability and incorporating both existing and future ICAM solutions.