



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## **HOMELAND SECURITY: INDUSTRY LEADERS PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE THE RELIABILITY AND SECURITY OF MEDIA FACILITIES**

Washington, D.C. – Leaders from the broadcast, cable and satellite industries today presented more than 50 best practices recommendations detailing prevention and restoration measures to ensure the continued operation and security of media facilities in the face of a national emergency. These recommendations are a result of a focused survey of media facilities across the United States.

The recommendations were presented to members of the Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC) at its biannual meeting today at the FCC. The 41-member Federal Advisory Committee will complete voting on these recommendations by November 26, 2003.

In addition to praising the recommendations and the Council's coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, FCC Chairman Michael Powell said, "This fourth meeting of the MSRC Council demonstrates the continued commitment of the FCC and the media industry to take the necessary steps to achieve a fundamental priority of this Commission and this country—securing and protecting our homeland."

Dennis J. FitzSimons, MSRC chairman and president and chief executive officer of Tribune Company said, "Great progress has been made, but given the importance of the mission, we can't afford to pat ourselves on the back just yet."

The Communications Infrastructure Security, Access and Restoration Working Group presented to the Council the best practices recommendations detailing prevention and restoration measures that local media can implement. The best practices included recommendations regarding the physical security, backup power, and redundant facilities for radio stations, local television stations and cable television companies. They also included recommendations related to disaster recovery plans of radio and television broadcasters, cable companies, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) and digital satellite radio providers, and other delivery media.

In addition, during the meeting, the Public Communications and Safety Working Group reported to the Council on an upcoming workshop they plan to conduct. They are preparing to study Tampa, Florida as a model for implementation of existing MSRC best practices recommendations, and to develop new recommendations based upon local and regional practices in the Tampa Bay area.

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MSRC is a Federal Advisory Committee that reports to FCC Chairman Powell. Chairman Powell formed MSRC following the events of September 11, 2001, in order to study, develop and report on best practices designed to assure the optimal reliability, robustness and security of the broadcast and multichannel video programming distribution industries.

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