Homeland Security Policy Council

On November 14, 2001, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael K. Powell announced the creation of the FCC **Homeland Security Policy Council** (HSPC). The FCC HSPC has multiple ongoing initiatives in various arenas.

*M*ission

- Assist the Commission in evaluating and strengthening measures for protecting U.S. communications infrastructure and services;

- Assist the Commission in ensuring rapid restoration of U.S. communications, infrastructure and services after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;

- Assist the Commission in ensuring that public safety, public health, and other emergency and defense personnel have effective communications services available to them to serve the public.

- Assist the Commission in fostering the implementation of new technologies that promote homeland security.

*O*rganization

The Homeland Security Policy Council is comprised of senior staff from the Commission's Bureaus and Offices.

*F*ocus

Interagency Coordination

The Homeland Security Policy Council coordinates **partnerships** with other agencies and organizations on issues that affect homeland security, including the Executive Office of the President, the Department of Homeland Security, federal advisory committees that include industry and trade organizations, and state, local and tribal governments.

Infrastructure Protection through Industry Partnerships

The HSPC seeks to encourage measures to protect the telecommunications network and ensure continuation of services.

- Through voluntary best practices, the **Network Reliability and Interoperability Council** (NRIC), an FCC Federal Advisory Committee, focuses on assessing vulnerabilities in the cyber and physical networks and developing best practices that will ensure maximum protection against a wide range of threats.

The **NRIC** works to ensure the sustainability of public telecommunications networks, emergency services networks, ensure adequate public telecommunications capacity during events or periods of exceptional stress, and facilitate the rapid restoration of telecommunications services. The FCC rechartered NRIC in January 2004, to focus on Enhanced 911 (E911) issues.

- The **Media Security and Reliability Council** (MSRC), an FCC Federal Advisory Committee rechartered in March 2004, focuses on developing ways to secure and sustain broadcast and multichannel video programming distribution (MVPD) facilities and services throughout the United States in the event of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other threats or attacks.

Communications Reliability

The HSPC continues to promote:

- **Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)** - ensures that critical and necessary phone lines are given priority restoration in the event of an emergency.

- **Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS)** - provides emergency access and priority processing in the local and long distance segments of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

- **Wireless Priority Access** - ensures commercial mobile radio service providers voluntarily offer Priority Access Service to national security and emergency preparedness personnel at the federal, state, and local levels to help meet the national security and emergency preparedness needs of the nation.

Public Safety Communications

The HSPC works within the FCC to:

- Provide spectrum to promote public safety;

- Resolve public safety interference;

- Facilitate effective deployment of E911; and

- Promote interoperability of public safety radio systems.

Other Initiatives

The HSPC focuses on many other initiatives, including:

- **Spectrum Policy** - The HSPC and the FCC work to facilitate access to spectrum resources by removing unnecessary regulatory impediments and developing policies and procedures that adequately protect spectrum users from harmful interference.

- **Technology** - The HSPC and the FCC work to develop policies that foster implementation of new technologies which will advance homeland security goals.

- **International Policy** - The HSPC and the FCC monitor network security developments internationally; resolve cross-border and international spectrum matters; address issues involving operations in outer space; analyze foreign investment issues; and conduct outreach with telecommunications government policy makers in foreign countries.

FCC

FCC's Homeland Security Policy Council

For more information on the Homeland Security Policy Council, visit our Web site, www.fcc.gov/hspc, or contact the Federal Communications Commission toll-free at

1-888-CALL-FCC - voice (1-888-225-5322)

1-888-TELL-FCC - TTY (1-888-835-5322).

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" With the events of September 11th, it has become imperative that the communications community come together to determine our role in ensuring homeland security. We must be aggressive in ensuring that our policies maximize the many efforts being made to make our nation safe. We will work with industry to ensure the reliability and security of our nation's communications infrastructure."

**Michael K. Powell
Chairman, FCC
October 23, 2001**

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