



Homeland Security Policy Council Overview

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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
Federal Communications Commission
October 23, 2001

Mission of the FCC Homeland Security Policy Council (HSPC)

- Assist the Commission in evaluating and strengthening measures for protecting U.S. telecommunications, broadcast and other communications infrastructure and facilities;
- Assist the Commission in ensuring rapid restoration of U.S. telecommunications, broadcast, and other communications infrastructure and facilities after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack; and
- 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.

Organization of the HSPC

- The FCC's Homeland Security Policy Council is comprised of senior staff from the Commission's Bureaus and Offices. The director is the FCC Chief of Staff.

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The Council's Work

HSPC's work complements that of the Commission's Bureaus, Offices, and Federal Advisory Committees. One primary focus is on sustaining strong partnerships with state, local, and tribal governments, sister agencies, and industry and trade organizations on issues that affect homeland security. The Council also works to coordinate throughout the FCC policy initiatives that relate to Homeland Security. These initiatives include, for example:

- **Promoting Enhanced 911** by ensuring that the FCC, public safety community, carriers, manufacturers, and other government agencies join together to deploy 911 and E911 services quickly.
- **Promoting Wireless Priority Access** in order that federal, state, and local personnel have priority access to wireless communications as necessary for national security and emergency preparedness.
- **Promoting Telecommunications Service Priority**, a federal program permitting priority installation and restoration of telecommunications lines that are considered critical to the nation's security and emergency preparedness, especially in times of disaster.
- **Developing Sound Spectrum Policy** that facilitates access to spectrum resources by removing unnecessary regulations and adopting procedures that adequately protect spectrum users from harmful interference.
- **Promoting Public Safety Interoperability** by enhancing the ability of public safety radio system users to talk to one another even when their equipment operates in different frequency bands.
- **Promoting Communications Infrastructure Security and Reliability** to ensure that the telecommunications networks, as well as broadcast, cable, and satellite facilities, are protected to the greatest extent possible against terrorist attack and other disruptions and that they are capable of rapid restoration following disruption.
- **Promoting the Security of Satellites and International Telecommunications Systems**, especially through cooperation with our international partners.

For additional information on the FCC's Homeland Security Policy Council, visit our Web site, www.fcc.gov/hspc.

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