

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**FCC'S COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY AND**  
**INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL**

**A. The Council's Official Designation**

The official designation of the advisory committee will be the "FCC's Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council" (hereinafter, the "Council").

**B. The Council's Objectives and Scope of Its Activity**

The purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the FCC to ensure optimal security, reliability and interoperability of communications systems, including telecommunications, media and public safety communications. The scope of the Council's recommendations includes facilitating the operability and interoperability of wireline, wireless, satellite, cable and public data networks as well as the operability and interoperability of public safety communications systems. The Council's recommendations will also facilitate the security, robustness and reliability of broadcast and Multichannel Video Programming Distribution facilities. The Council's recommendations will also address: (1) ensuring the security, sustainability and resiliency of telecommunications and media infrastructure and public safety communications, throughout the United States; (2) ensuring the availability of communications capacity during natural disasters, terrorist attacks or other events that result in exceptional strain on the communications infrastructure; and (3) ensuring and facilitating the rapid restoration of communications services in the event of widespread or major disruptions.

The Council's duties shall include the following:

1. Recommend Best Practices to ensure the security, reliability, operability and interoperability of public safety communications systems including dispatch systems, radio communications networks and facilities, and devices used by first responders.
2. Evaluate ways to strengthen the collaboration between communications service providers and public safety entities during emergencies and make recommendations for how they can be improved.
3. Recommend ways to improve the Emergency Alert System (EAS), including recommended best practices for EAS.
4. Examine the state of readiness of communications service providers and public safety agencies for a pandemic flu outbreak and make recommendations to the Commission for what steps should be taken to better prepare for the shifts in communications usage patterns that are likely to result.
5. Recommend technologies and systems that would facilitate the communication of emergency information to and from schools, day care facilities, hospitals, and other facilities that provide vital public services.
6. Develop and recommend best practices to facilitate the communication of emergency information to the public, especially people with special needs such as people who do not speak English, individuals with disabilities, the elderly and people living in rural areas.
7. Recommend methods by which the communications industry can reliably and accurately measure the extent to which key Best Practices are implemented both now and in the future, in particular those that are judged to be most critical for secure, reliable, interoperable performance.

- a. Develop a recommended set of criteria that can be used to select Best Practices whose implementation is deemed to be especially important for network security, reliability, operability and interoperability. Particular attention should be given to emergency communications (e.g., E911), control networks (e.g., SS7), network resiliency, and network diversity.
  - b. Develop a recommended set of critical Best Practices for each communications industry segment (e.g., media, wireline, wireless, public safety) using the above criteria.
  - c. Develop recommended methods to measure implementation of the critical Best Practices identified using the process from 2(b), including procedures for updating this information.
8. Review and develop recommendations for updating existing Best Practices produced by the Network Reliability and Interoperability Council and the Media Security and Reliability Council to:
  - a. Determine effects of new technologies on communications reliability.
  - b. Make best use of IP technology to enhance the resiliency, restorability and interoperability of communications networks.
  - c. Leverage additional functionalities provided by wireless handsets such as Short Message Service (SMS) to create alternative means of communication to emergency response channels.
9. Address the deployment of IP as the likely network protocol for critical next generation infrastructure, including emergency/first responder networks and infrastructure, and the need to improve the reliability and security of the protocol as well as provide for reasonable security controls. The following important matters should be addressed by the Council.
  - a. Evaluate security and reliability issues of the IP protocol suite with an emphasis on networks used by emergency services/first responders. Promote the highest degree of security in IP-based networks by proven network engineering and uses of sophisticated, but well known, security capabilities that achieve authentication of two participating computing platforms and encrypt their communication to prevent unauthorized access to private information. Create a white paper for submission to the FCC that identifies:
    - i. Security issues arising from the convergence of all communications into an IP-based platform that is/will be applicable to all communications.
    - ii. Recommendations for addressing security and reliability issues that are identified.
    - iii. Recommendations for long-term upgrades of IP and associated protocol suites to include improved security features.
  - b. Create a white paper for submission to the FCC on the need for encryption of communications channels and signaling systems to prevent intrusion, disruption, and the inappropriate (i.e., non-CALEA intercept) appropriation of information.
  - c. Evaluate the need for stronger identity management technologies which is becoming a critical component to fight the proliferation of malware such as worms and address spoofing attacks which lead to distributed denial of service conditions on networks.

- i. Evaluate near-term technologies with focus on a variety of identification techniques as well as establishment of “trusted broker” methods to convey identification technologies between networks, applications and companies.
  - ii. Recommend techniques to prevent viruses from jumping from one cell phone to another, or from the internet into wireless, wireline, cable, and satellite networks in such a way as to impair or preclude the use of those networks.
10. Review the “emergency communications internetwork” advocated by NRIC VII, Focus Group 1D in its December 2005 Final Report. Develop a recommended implementation plan, including deployment issues and performance characteristics, for such an emergency communications internetwork, which includes any necessary updates to the internetwork advocated by NRIC VII. This emergency communications internetwork should be based on the IP protocol suite and characterized by fully integrated voice and high-speed data communications and deliver a broad array of data elements over a single local infrastructure with secure access to data and multiple wireless and wireline networks when appropriate permissions are granted. Recommend best practices for immediate transitional steps that need to be taken in the key areas of Transport, Standards, Facilitation Services, Applications and Policy.
11. The Council will also make recommendations with respect to such additional topics as the FCC may specify. These topics may include issues arising from the convergence of technologies and how the FCC can best fulfill its responsibilities, particularly with respect to national defense and safety of life and property (including law enforcement) under the Communications Act.
12. The Council is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 (1988).

**C. Period of Time Necessary for the Council to Carry Out Its Purpose**

The Council will have two (2) years from the date its Charter is filed to carry out the purposes for which it was created.

**D. Official to Whom the Council Reports**

The Council shall report to the Chairman of the FCC. The Chairman of the FCC shall appoint the Chair of the Council.

**E. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support**

The FCC will provide the necessary support for the Council, including the meeting facilities for the Council.

**F. Description of Duties for Which the Council is Responsible**

The duties of the Council will be to gather the data and information necessary to formulate recommendations for assuring optimal communications services within the parameters set forth in Section B above, develop those recommendations, and submit them to the Commission.

**G. Estimated Total Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years**

An estimated two FCC staff years will be expended in support of the Council. The Council’s estimated total operating cost to the FCC is approximately \$150,000 per year.

**H. Membership**

Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. Members will be selected from among public safety agencies, consumer or community organizations or other non-profit entities and the private sector to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to effectively address the issues to be considered. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees (SGEs), as necessary.

**I. Estimated Number and Frequency of Council Meetings**

The Council will meet at least twice a year. The Council is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees that may meet more frequently. Activities and recommendations of the informal subcommittees must be reported to the Council as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the Council as a whole may such recommendations be included in the official record of the Council proceedings and reported to the Chairman of the Commission.

**J. Council's Termination Date**

The Council will terminate two (2) years from the date that the Council's charter is filed, unless renewed before that date for an additional term.

**K. Date Original Charter Filed**

April 19, 2007