NATIONAL SECURITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 12, 2006

COPY

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) has completed its examination of national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) communications that are or will be delivered on networks where convergence is being driven by the evolution of technology. The Committee has identified several recommendations related to NS/EP communications that will help ensure more secure and available capabilities on next generation networks (NGN).

The convergence of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), wireless networks, and Internet Protocol (IP) networks into the global NGN is changing how the Federal Government will meet its communications needs in the future. The NGN will offer significant improvements for NS/EP communications as bandwidth and software continue to improve, but the transition to the NGN presents challenges for ensuring the security and availability of NS/EP communications. Although the complete transition to the NGN is expected to take years, the process is well underway.

This report is a result of the collaborative efforts of representatives and technical experts from NSTAC member companies, non-NSTAC companies, and Government agencies. The report offers several key recommendations for your consideration, including, but not limited to:

- Building a federated, interoperable, survivable, and effective identity management framework for the NGN;

- Establishing a joint industry-Government initiative to ensure NS/EP communications capabilities in the NGN environment, including the creation of a regular NGN summit;

- Driving comprehensive change in the security of NS/EP information and communications technology through policy, incentives, and research supporting the development and use of trusted technologies that reduce the presence of intrinsic vulnerabilities; and

- Establishing an inclusive and effective NGN incident response capability that includes a Joint Coordination Center that incorporates the Communications and Information Technology sectors.

For the NGN to broadly meet essential NS/EP functional requirements in a consistent, continuous, and reliable end-to-end manner, a set of mechanisms must be promoted and adopted by those supplying network access, transport, and infrastructure services for the NS/EP users. To accomplish this, it is critical that industry and Government work cooperatively to implement a set of solutions that support NS/EP on the NGN.

Your NSTAC looks forward to working with you and your staff on the implementation of these important recommendations. On behalf of the NSTAC Principals, thank you for your ongoing support of the NSTAC and our activities.

Sincerely,

F. Duane Ackerman
NSTAC Chair

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