

Communications Security, Reliability & Interoperability Council (CSRIC) Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2009  
10:00 a.m.  
FCC Open Meeting Room

*Welcoming Remarks of Commissioner Robert M. McDowell*

Good morning! Welcome to the FCC and thank you for serving on the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council. We are grateful for your time and expertise. I also applaud Chairman Genachowski for his leadership in this important area. It is particularly poignant that we are holding our inaugural meeting on the day that we remember the attack on Pearl Harbor.

I am pleased that we are continuing to work together to resolve the outstanding issues relating to next-generation public safety communications architectures and technologies. Thank you for your passion and vision on these matters, which are so vital to our country's future security. Today's event evinces the Commission's ongoing commitment to ensure that first responders have access to cutting edge communications services so that they can best serve the American public in emergencies. By coordinating closely on issues such as implementing the Emergency Alert System and next-generation Enhanced 911, pandemic preparedness, as well as staying on top of the latest advances to ensure secure cyber communications, we can and will succeed! We have to.

It goes without saying that I remain fully committed to ensuring that the Commission takes advantage of all opportunities to spur technological innovation and increase access to broadband services by emergency response providers.

Our country is teeming with entrepreneurs who are ready, willing and able to invest and take the risks necessary to accelerate the development and roll-out of advanced services for an array of customers, including public safety agencies. Moreover, given that over 220 million Americans rely upon advanced broadband technologies for anytime, anywhere communications, the public has high expectations for reliable communications and effective coordination among emergency personnel in times of crisis.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your dedicated service to our country. I hope you will continue to let me know what I can do to help you as we move forward together to keep America secure.