

**FHH Telecom Law**  
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**Public Safety and Homeland  
Security Bureau Established**

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The FCC has finally revamped its organizational structure in an effort to be responsive to an increased focus on public safety and security by creating a new bureau, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (“Homeland Security Bureau”). The reason for creating the Homeland Security Bureau was to consolidate public safety and national security functions that had previously been dispersed among seven different bureaus and offices. The reorganization plan was originally adopted in March, and the Commission then moved with FEMA-like alacrity to implement the new Bureau and install a new Acting (!) Bureau Chief six months later. The process has been so sluggish and so fraught with delay as to raise questions from the get-go about the fledgling Bureau’s ability to respond to emergencies in any sort of timely fashion.

The Homeland Security Bureau is headed by Acting Bureau Chief Kenneth Moran and is organized into 3 divisions:

The Policy Division headed by Dan Shaffer;

The Public Communications Outreach and Operations Division (“PCOOD”) headed by Richard D. Lee; and

The Communications Systems Analysis Division (“CSAD”) headed by Jeffrey Goldthorp.

The Policy Division will develop and administer rules such as E911, CALEA, and EAS. The Policy Division will also regulate in such areas as Public Safety Answering Points, interoperability of public safety communications equipment, and network security and reliability.

The PCOOD is responsible for coordinating the Commission’s emergency response and preparedness, and will serve as the point of contact for inter-governmental coordination between the FCC and other Federal agencies. The CSAD will administer the Commission's information collection requirements (for example network outage reporting) as well as perform studies concerning public safety and disaster preparedness.

The Homeland Security Bureau currently has pending before it a waiver request from the National Capital Region to establish an interoperable broadband network on the 700 MHz

band. In addition the Bureau is seeking nominations to fill the CMRS Alert Advisory Committee that was mandated by Congress as part of the WARN Act.