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**Statement from PSST Chairman Chief Harlin McEwen
on President Barack Obama's Support for Public Safety Communications**

During his first weekly address on Saturday, January 24, 2009, President Barack Obama called for ***“creating a better communications network for local law enforcement and public safety officials in the event of an emergency.”*** The President highlighted the issue while discussing the specific goals of his American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

Over the last two years, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has made enormous progress in creating the framework for a public-private partnership that would result in a nationwide shared wireless broadband network facilitating the delivery of next-generation communications capabilities for first responders while simultaneously extending broadband to underserved and rural locations across America.

The PSST, representing a broad cross-section of national public safety organizations and state and local government leadership, salutes President Obama for focusing immediate attention on the communications needs of public safety and improving our domestic security. We stand prepared to assist him in this important endeavor. I'm optimistic that the encouraging words of the President will motivate members of Congress to include some form of funding for a nationwide communications network for public safety in stimulus legislation now working its way through the House and Senate.

About the PSST

The PSST, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, is the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL), holding an FCC license for public safety spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band designated for nationwide wireless broadband use. The PSST's mission is to provide national public safety leadership an organizational structure through which decisions can be made to guide the construction and operation of an interoperable nationwide broadband network via a public safety-commercial partnership, ensuring the communications requirements of the public safety community are met. For additional information, visit www.psst.org.

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