



2008-18

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE SAFECOM
EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, the scope of law enforcement services continues to increase and requires communication with multiple and diverse law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, following the events of 9/11, effective communication systems among emergency responders became necessary; and

WHEREAS, as a result, SAFECOM was established in the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and

WHEREAS, SAFECOM assists Federal, state, local, and tribal emergency response agencies with interoperable communications issues; and

WHEREAS, SAFECOM provides such assistance in the forms of research, development, testing and evaluation, guidance, tools and templates; and

WHEREAS, the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) is composed of Federal, state, local, and tribal emergency response agencies and governments and works to develop best practices in emergency response and communication; and

WHEREAS, SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) examined the issue of coded communication among emergency responses versus plain language responses and developed a statement of support for plain language; and

WHEREAS, the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) Plain Language Statement reads – “We support radio practices that minimize or eliminate coded substitutions for English”; and now

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) supports SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) Plain Language Statement.