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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006

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GOVERNOR BUSH ANNOUNCES THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO SYSTEM

~All state law enforcement officers are now able to communicate through a central radio system~

MIAMI – Governor Jeb Bush today announced the full implementation of the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS). SLERS gives more than 6,500 law enforcement officers the ability to communicate with their peers throughout the state using a central radio system.

“With this new system, officers from various state agencies are able to effectively communicate with one another on one system,” said Governor Bush. “By providing a single system, Florida is able to provide law enforcement officers responding to an emergency with a more efficient means of communications and the ability to talk to one another in real time.”

Before the implementation of the SLERS, officers traveling outside of their home areas had to switch equipment to talk with other officers due to the lack of interoperability between the systems. With one system, officers will no longer need to switch equipment to be able to talk with their peers in all 67 counties of Florida and remain in continuous communication during emergencies when traveling throughout the state. The new system also provides encrypted communications for greater security and digital voice quality.

“Governor Bush’s goal to create a seamless communications system to improve the safety of Florida’s law enforcement officers has been reached due to the switch from the state-owned and operated system to the public/private partnership between the State of Florida and M/A-COM,” said Florida Department of Management Services Secretary Tom Lewis. “Not only will the public safety for all Floridians and state law enforcement officers be improved, but Floridians will save more than \$600 million over the course of the contract.”

The SLERS provides all state law enforcement officers from 17 state agencies the ability to communicate through a shared 800 MHz radio system. This digital system covers 59,000 square miles of Florida, along with 25 miles off Florida’s coastlines. Florida’s SLERS is a leader in the nation with 98 percent statewide mobile coverage.

“Due to the leadership of the Governor and the cooperative effort of the Florida Department of Management Services, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and all state law enforcement agencies, Florida’s law enforcement officers are able to communicate reliably and focus on the job

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at hand,” said Fred Dickinson, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. “Throughout the last eight hurricanes, the system has proven to be effective and allowed law enforcement officers to come to the aid of Floridians.”

Not only can state agency law enforcement officers take advantage of the improved technology provided through SLERS, local and federal public safety agencies located in Florida have the opportunity to join the system as third-party subscribers as well. Being a third-party subscriber allows local and federal public safety agencies direct interoperability to state law enforcement. If they use SLERS as their primary system, it may also mean moving from an older, less reliable radio system to one that has been constructed to the strictest standards and has a proven track record of continued service during hurricanes and other natural disasters.

For more information regarding the SLERS, visit www.dms.myflorida.com.

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