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Contact: Candace Horgan
(303) 988-1111, ext. 2625
chorgan@nsp.org

National Ski Patrol announces Ed McNamara re-elected board chair

The National Ski Patrol (NSP), the largest winter rescue organization in the world, announced today that Ed McNamara has been re-elected as the organization's board chair, effective Jan. 10, 2015. McNamara will be serving a second term as board chair in his third year on the board.

McNamara brings 35-plus years of experience in the patrol world to the NSP board of directors. As board chair, McNamara plans to enhance the educational opportunities the NSP provides for members and build stronger relationships with key EMS and snow sports industry groups such as the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), and the National Park Service (NPS), among others.



"It is an honor to have been re-elected as chair of the National Ski Patrol's board of directors," said McNamara. "The NSP is fortunate to have an enthusiastic, dedicated, and hard-working national office and leadership team. I am proud and humbled to have the opportunity to serve with them. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities to work with all our members and leaders in every division and region to expand our membership and enhance our ability to serve the public, not only during the winter season, but throughout the year in the activities where we can be of service."

McNamara, a retired U.S. Army National Guard colonel, has served on federal, state, and local emergency medical and Homeland Security committees, is a nationally registered paramedic, and has been deployed with federal disaster medical teams responding to Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 in New York City, and the Haiti earthquake, among others. He spent six years serving as the NSP's Outdoor Emergency Care Program director, serving as editor and one of the principal authors and photographers of the *Outdoor Emergency Care Fifth Edition* textbook. McNamara is also a patroller and former patrol director at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts.

Outside NSP, McNamara is in his 36th year serving as the executive director of a nonprofit EMS corporation and served as the chair of a 70-town Homeland Security committee. He also has served for 34 years as the deputy chief of a Sterling, Massachusetts, fire/EMS department, retiring this past October.

"Ed McNamara provided excellent leadership on the board in his first year, and I look forward to working closely with him in the coming year," said NSP Executive Director John McMahan. "I believe his vast experience as an executive director of a nonprofit, plus his past involvement with grants and the medical field, is an important asset to the NSP."

McNamara is in the final year of his three-year elected term on the board; he was elected in fall 2012. McNamara will be eligible for re-election to the board during the 2015 election for another three-year term that would begin in 2016.

In addition to McNamara, the NSP board of directors elected Keith Cassidy as assistant chair at its midwinter meeting in Denver in January 2015.

About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a federally chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 75 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 28,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information, access www.nsp.org.

For further comments or interviews regarding the NSP, please call NSP Communications Director Candace Horgan at (303) 988-1111, x2625.