

NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC

Form 10-K

March 31, 2008

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(D) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2007**

**Commission File Number 0-18649**

**The National Security Group, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

**63-1020300**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of

(IRS Employer

Incorporation or Organization)

Identification No.)

**661 East Davis Street**

**Elba, Alabama**

**36323**

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip-Code)

**Registrant's Telephone Number including Area Code (334) 897-2273**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (b) of the Act:**

**None**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (g) of the Act:**

**Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per shareThe NASDAQ Global Market (EXCHANGE)**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

# Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by nonaffiliates of the Registrant as of February 28, 2008, (based upon the bid price of these shares on NASDAQ on such date) was \$17,395,859

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of Common Stock, as of the close of the period covered by this report.

## Outstanding December 31, 2007

Class

Common Stock, \$1.00 par value

2,466,600 shares

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

1. Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 1, 2008 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K Report which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days from December 31, 2007.

---

**Table of Contents**

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Page</b>
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	4
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	13
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	17
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	17
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	17
Item 4. <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	17
 <b>Part II</b>	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	18
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	19
Item 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	20
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	35
Item 8. <u>Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	37
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Financial Disclosure</u>	75
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	75
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	75
 <b>Part III</b>	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	76
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	76
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	76
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	76
Item 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	76
 <b>Part IV.</b>	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules and Reports of Form 8-K</u>	77
<u>Signature Page</u>	78
<u>Certifications</u>	79





### Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Any statement contained in this report which is not a historical fact, or which might otherwise be considered an opinion or projection concerning the Company or its business, whether expressed or implied, is meant as and should be considered a forward-looking statement as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The following report contains forward-looking statements that are not strictly historical and that involve risks and uncertainties. Such statements include any statements containing the words “expect,” “plan,” “estimate,” “anticipate” or other words of a similar nature. Management cautions investors about forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve certain evaluation criteria, such as risks, uncertainties, estimates, and/or assumptions made by individuals informed of the Company and industries in which we operate. Any variation in the preceding evaluation criteria could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, the following:

- The insurance industry is highly competitive and the Company encounters significant competition in all lines of business from other insurance companies. Many of the competing companies have more abundant financial resources than the Company.
- Insurance is a highly regulated industry. It is possible that legislation may be enacted which would have an adverse effect on the Company’s business.
- The Company is subject to regulation by state governments for each of the states in which it conducts business. The Company cannot predict the subject of any future regulatory initiative(s) or its (their) impact on the Company’s business.
- The Company is rated by various insurance rating agencies. If a rating is downgraded from its current level by one of these agencies, sales of the Company’s products and stock could be adversely impacted.
- The Company’s financial results are adversely affected by increases in policy claims received by the Company. While a manageable risk, this fluctuation is often unpredictable.
- The Company’s investments are subject to a variety of risks. Investments are subject to defaults and changes in market value. Market value can be affected by changes in interest rates, market performance and the economy.
- The Company mitigates risk associated with life policies through implementing effective underwriting and reinsurance strategies. These factors mitigate, not eliminate, risk related to mortality and morbidity exposure. The Company has established reserves for claims and future policy benefits based on amounts determined by independent actuaries. There is no assurance that these estimated reserves will prove to be sufficient or that the Company will not incur claims exceeding reserves, which could result in operating losses.
- The Company mitigates risk associated with property and casualty policies through implementing effective underwriting and reinsurance strategies. The Company obtains reinsurance which increases underwriting capacity and limits the risk associated with policy claims. The Company is subject to credit risk with regard to reinsurers as reinsurance does not alleviate the Company’s liability to its insureds for the

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

ceded risks. The Company utilizes a third party to develop a reinsurance treaty with reinsurers who are reliable and financially stable. However, there is no guarantee that booked reinsurance recoverables will actually be recovered. A reinsurer's insolvency or inability to make payments due could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of the Company.

- The Company's ability to continue to pay dividends to shareholders is contingent upon profitability and capital adequacy of the insurance subsidiaries. The insurance subsidiaries operate under regulatory restrictions that could limit the ability to fund future dividend payments of the Company. An adverse event or series of events could materially impact the ability of the insurance subsidiaries to fund future dividends and consequently the Board of Directors would have to suspend the declaration of dividends to shareholders.

**PART I**

**Item 1. Business**

Summary Description of The National Security Group, Inc.

The National Security Group, Inc. (the Company, NSG, we, us, our), an insurance holding company, was incorporated in Delaware on March 20, 1990. The Company, through its three wholly owned subsidiaries, operates in two industry segments; property and casualty, and life insurance. The property and casualty subsidiaries of the Company, National Security Fire and Casualty (NSFC), and Omega One Insurance Company (Omega), primarily write personal lines coverage including dwelling fire and windstorm, homeowners, mobile homeowners, and personal non-standard automobile lines of insurance in eleven states. Property-casualty insurance is the most significant industry segment accounting for 89% of total premium revenues. The Company's life insurance subsidiary, National Security Insurance Company, offers a basic line of life and health and accident insurance products in six states.

The Company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol NSEC.

The Company's website address is: [www.nationalsecuritygroup.com](http://www.nationalsecuritygroup.com)

Industry Segment and Geographical Area Information

**Property and Casualty Insurance Segment**

The Company's property and casualty insurance business is conducted through National Security Fire & Casualty Company (NSFC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company organized in 1959, and Omega One Insurance Company (Omega), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Security Fire & Casualty Company organized in 1992. This segment will be referred to throughout this report as NSFC, property-casualty segment or P&C segment. NSFC is licensed to write insurance in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia, and operates on a surplus lines basis in the states of Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas. Omega is licensed to write insurance in Alabama and Louisiana. The following table indicates allocation percentages of direct written premium by state for the three years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005:

<u>State</u>	<u>Percent of direct written premium</u>		
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Alabama	32.87%	35.43%	35.46%
Arkansas	8.23%	8.79%	9.74%

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Georgia	7.08%	6.02%	6.42%
Louisiana	10.74%	10.20%	5.29%
Mississippi	15.73%	17.01%	21.38%
South Carolina	10.16%	8.32%	8.68%
Florida	0.20%	0.23%	0.34%
Missouri	1.07%	1.67%	2.20%
Oklahoma	5.44%	4.20%	4.15%
Tennessee	6.80%	6.66%	4.98%
Texas	1.68%	1.47%	1.36%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

In general, the property-casualty insurance business involves the transfer by the insured, to an insurance company of all or a portion of certain risks for the payment, by the insured, of a premium to the insurance company. A portion of such risks is often retained by the insured in the form of deductibles, which vary from policy to policy, but are typically in the range of \$500 to \$1,000 on NSFC and Omega's primary dwelling and automobile lines of business.

The premiums or payments to be made by the insured for direct products of the property and casualty subsidiaries are based upon expected costs of providing benefits, writing and administering the policies. In determining the premium to be charged, the property and casualty subsidiaries utilize data from past claims experience and anticipated claims estimates along with commissions and general expenses.

The operating results of the property-casualty insurance industry are subject to significant fluctuations from quarter to quarter and from year to year. These fluctuations are often due to the effect of competition on pricing, unpredictable losses incurred in connection with weather-related and other catastrophic events, general economic conditions, and other factors, such as changes in tax laws and the regulatory environment.

The following table sets forth the premiums earned and pre-tax income during the periods reported for the property and casualty insurance segment:

	<u>Year Ended December 31</u>		
	(Amounts In Thousands)		
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>Net premiums earned:</b>			
Fire, Allied lines and Homeowners	\$ 49,460	\$ 44,871	\$ 38,671
Automobile	4,504	6,327	6,990
Other	1,255	1,126	1,668
	\$ 55,219	\$ 52,324	\$ 47,329
Income before taxes	\$ 8,594	\$ 8,598	\$ 2,687

### *Property and Casualty Loss Reserves*

Our property and casualty insurance subsidiaries are required to maintain reserves to cover their ultimate liability for losses and adjustment expenses. Our staff periodically conducts reviews throughout the year of projected loss development information in order to adjust estimates. The liability for loss and adjustment expense reserves consists of an estimated liability for the ultimate settlement of claims that have been reported as well as an estimate of loss and adjustment expenses for incurred claims that have not yet been reported (IBNR). IBNR estimates are based primarily on historical development patterns using quantitative data generated from statistical information and qualitative analysis of legal developments, economic conditions and development caused by events deemed to be infrequent in occurrence. The reserves are based on an estimate made by management. Management estimates are based on an analysis historical paid and incurred loss development patterns for the previous ten loss years. Prior year period-to-period loss development factors are applied to latest reported loss reserve estimates in order to estimate the ultimate incurred losses for each given loss year. The amount of loss reserves estimated in excess of current reported case losses are

recorded as IBNR reserves.

In addition to loss and loss adjustment expense reserves for specific claims, both reported and unreported, we establish reserves for loss adjustment expenses that are not attributable to specific claims. These reserves consist of estimates for Defense and Cost Containment (DCC) and Adjusting and Other Expenses (AO). These reserves are established for the estimated expenses of internal claims staff and the cost of outside experts, such as attorneys representing our interest, in the final settlement of incurred claims that are still in process of settlement.

We engage a consulting actuary to issue an opinion as to the adequacy of statutory insurance reserves that are estimated by management. These opinions are filed with the various insurance regulatory jurisdictions in which we are licensed. In addition to the annual review, we conduct interim reviews during the year in order to insure that no significant changes have occurred in our loss development that might adversely impact our loss reserving methodology.

The following Loss Reserve Re-estimates table illustrates the change over time of the net reserves established for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense at the end of the last 10 calendar years. The first section shows the reserves as originally reported at the end of the stated year. The second section, reading down, shows retroactive re-estimates of the original recorded reserve as of the end of each successive year. These re-estimates are the result of the Company's expanded awareness of additional facts and circumstances that pertain to the unsettled claims. The third section, reading down, shows the cumulative amounts paid as of the end of successive years with respect to that year's reserve liability. The last section compares the latest re-estimated reserve to the reserve originally established, and indicates whether the original reserve was adequate to cover the estimated costs of unsettled claims. The Loss Reserve Re-estimates table is cumulative and, therefore, ending balances should not be added since the amount at the end of each calendar year includes activity for both the current and prior years.

While the information in the table provides a historical perspective on the adequacy of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses established in previous years, it should not be assumed to be predictive of redundancies or deficiencies on current year unpaid losses in future periods. Company management believes that the reserves established at the end of 2007 are adequate. However, due to inherent uncertainties in the loss reserve estimation process, management cannot guarantee that current year reserve balances will prove to be adequate. Due to the short tail nature of the property and casualty subsidiaries claim liabilities, the Company does not discount loss reserves for the time value of money. Dollar amounts are in thousands.



Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Gross unpaid losses per											
Consolidated Balance Sheet	\$ 21,869\$	21,528\$	18,463\$	15,409\$	11,489\$	11,513\$	11,343\$	13,094\$	19,511\$	12,498\$	11,973
Ceded reserves	(7,148)	(5,889)	(3,899)	(3,092)	(2,396)	(1,555)	(1,232)	(2,611)	(8,560)	(1,783)	(555)
Net unpaid losses	\$ 14,721\$	15,639\$	14,564\$	12,317\$	9,093\$	9,958\$	10,111\$	10,483\$	10,951\$	10,715\$	11,418
Liability re-estimated:											
1 year later	\$ 14,158\$	14,637\$	11,067\$	8,847\$	6,805\$	7,334\$	9,186\$	9,042\$	11,844\$	11,817	
2 years later	14,570	12,067	9,261	7,863	6,017	7,165	8,607	9,118	11,827		
3 years later	13,161	11,350	8,931	7,460	5,856	6,906	8,098	8,669			
4 years later	12,936	11,496	8,556	7,236	5,699	6,509	7,863				
5 years later	13,271	11,121	8,422	7,240	5,436	6,499					
6 years later	13,034	11,087	8,519	6,995	5,413						
7 years later	13,104	11,202	8,264	6,961							
8 years later	13,193	10,968	8,245								
9 years later	13,005	10,972									
10 years later	13,033										
Net deficiency (redundancy)											
	\$ (1,688)\$	(4,667)\$	(6,319)\$	(5,356)\$	(3,680)\$	(3,459)\$	(2,248)\$	(1,814)\$	876\$	1,102	
Cumulative payments:											
1 year later	\$ 7,176\$	5,997\$	4,423\$	3,907\$	3,362\$	4,342\$	5,567\$	5,584\$	7,384\$	6,438	
2 years later	9,961	8,079	5,758	5,643	4,416	5,520	6,765	7,006	9,063		
3 years later	10,887	8,997	7,266	6,359	5,076	5,865	7,038	7,521			
4 years later	11,566	10,371	7,744	6,737	5,221	5,945	7,274				
5 years later	12,522	10,557	8,039	6,837	5,106	6,136					
6 years later	12,657	10,779	8,139	6,731	5,164						
7 years later	12,892	10,874	8,028	6,773							
8 years later	12,972	10,763	8,067								
9 years later	12,860	10,804									
10 years later	12,866										
Net deficiency (redundancy) above											
	\$ (1,688)\$	(4,667)\$	(6,319)\$	(5,356)\$	(3,680)\$	(3,459)\$	(2,248)\$	(1,814)\$	876\$	1,102	



**Life Insurance Segment**

National Security Insurance Company (NSIC), a wholly owned subsidiary organized in 1947, conducts the Company's life insurance business. This segment will be referred to throughout this report as NSIC, Life Company, or Life segment. NSIC is licensed to write insurance in six states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. The following table indicates NSIC's percentage of direct premiums collected by state for the three years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005.

State	Percentage of Total Direct Premiums		
	2007	2006	2005
Alabama	56.95%	58.86%	60.62%
Georgia	22.08%	21.05%	20.55%
Mississippi	10.04%	9.89%	9.82%
South Carolina	6.28%	5.37%	4.17%
Florida	1.96%	2.02%	2.35%
Texas	2.69%	2.81%	2.49%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

NSIC has two primary methods of distribution of insurance products, home service (career) agents and independent agents. The home service distribution method of life insurance products accounts for 37.2% of total premium revenues in the life insurance segment. Home service life products consist of products marketed directly at the home or other premises of the insured by an employee agent. The home service distribution method has been the Company's primary method of distribution since the founding of NSIC in 1947. However, over the past seven years, the Company has placed its primary emphasis for future growth on alternative methods of distribution. The Company employed 11 career agents and one regional manager at December 31, 2007. The independent agent distribution method accounts for 53.7% of total premium revenue in the life insurance segment. Since NSIC began marketing life, accident and health products through independent agents in 1999 this distribution channel has become the Company's fastest growing and primary method of distribution. Approximately 917 agents of the Company's independent agents produced new business during 2007. The remaining 9.1% of premium revenue consists of the following: a book of premium acquired from a state guaranty association in 2000 (1.8%), premium generated through direct sales of school accident insurance (1.1%), and other miscellaneous business serviced directly through the home office (6.2%).

NSIC's primary products are life insurance, both term and whole life, and health and accident insurance. NSIC does not sell annuities, interest sensitive whole life or universal life insurance products. Term life insurance policies provide death benefits if the insured's death occurs during the specific premium paying term of the policy. The policies generally do not provide a savings or investment element included as part of the policy premium. Whole-life insurance policies demand a higher premium than term life, but provide death benefits which are payable under effective policies regardless of the time of the insured's death and have a savings and investment element which may result in the accumulation of a cash surrender value. Our accident and health insurance policies provide coverage for losses sustained through sickness or accident and include individual hospitalization and accident policies, group supplementary health policies, and specialty products, such as cancer policies. Our line of health and accident products feature specified fixed benefits, so rapidly rising health care costs do not have as great an impact on our health and accident line as they do on comparable products offered by other companies.

The following table displays a schedule of 2007 life segment premium produced by product and distribution method (dollars in thousands):

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

<b>Line of Business</b>	<b>Home Service Agent</b>	<b>Independent Agent</b>	<b>Other</b>
Industrial	\$ 123	\$ -	\$ 69
Ordinary	2,026	2,861	296
Group Life	-	34	86
A&H Group	-	-	92
A&H Other	384	990	70
Total Premium by Distribution Method	\$ 2,533	\$ 3,885	\$ 613

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the development of the Life Company's business:

	Year Ended December 31		
	(Amounts In Thousands)		
	2007	2006	2005
<b>Life insurance in force at end of period:</b>			
Ordinary-whole Life	\$ 174,800	\$ 140,800	\$ 137,100
Term Life	26,000	46,400	38,400
Industrial life	29,000	30,000	28,100
Other	-	-	-
	\$ 229,600	\$ 217,200	\$ 203,600
<b>Life insurance issued:</b>			
Ordinary-whole life	\$ 36,700	\$ 39,100	\$ 35,600
Term Life	9,400	8,000	3,500
Industrial	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	\$ 46,100	\$ 47,100	\$ 39,100
<b>Net premiums earned:</b>			
Life insurance	\$ 5,495	\$ 5,065	\$ 4,819
Accident and health insurance	1,536	1,485	1,415
	\$ 7,031	\$ 6,550	\$ 6,234

### *Life Insurance Segment Reserves*

We engage a consulting actuary to calculate our reserves for traditional life insurance products. The methodology used requires that the present value of future benefits to be paid under life insurance policies less the present value of future net premiums be calculated. The calculation uses assumptions including estimates of any adverse deviation, investment yields and changes in investment yields, mortality, maintenance expenses and any non-forfeiture options or termination benefits. The assumptions determine the level and sufficiency of reserves and reserves are calculated and reviewed by our consulting actuary at the end of each quarter. The independent consulting actuary also reviews our estimates for other insurance products including claims reserves under accident and health contracts. Management believes that the reserve amounts reflected in the accompanying financial statements are adequate.

### **Investments**

A significant percentage of the total income for the Company is tied to the performance of its investments. Assets that will eventually be used to pay reserve liabilities and other policyholder obligations along with Company capital are invested to generate investment income while held by

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

the Company. Our investment income is comprised primarily of interest and dividend income on debt and equity securities and realized capital gains and losses generated by debt and equity securities. At December 31, 2007, investments comprise 80% of total assets and investment income (including realized gains) comprises 9% of total revenues evidencing the significant impact investments can have on financial results. Because the Company's insurance subsidiaries are regulated as to the types of investments they may make and the amount of funds they may maintain in any one type of investment, the Company has developed a conservative value oriented investment philosophy, in order to meet regulatory requirements. The Company's investment goals are to conserve capital resources and assets, obtain the necessary investment income threshold to meet reserves, and provide a reasonable return. Current yield from invested assets and capital appreciation of investments create this return.

The single most significant investment for the Company was The Mobile Attic, Inc. (Mobile Attic), a joint venture with a local manufacturing firm established in the fourth quarter of 2001. The Company sold the majority of its 50% stake in Mobile Attic in April of 2007, retaining a 5% interest. The Company realized a net of tax gain on the disposal of \$1,460,000.

## **Marketing and Distribution**

As mentioned earlier in this report, NSIC products are marketed through a field force of agents and career agents who are employees of the Life Company and through a network of independent agents. The Company's use of independent agents is expected to be more cost effective in the long term and has become the fastest growing method of distribution. In an effort to boost productivity and better educate agents on the products and services of NSIC, the Life Company marketing team travels extensively throughout our service areas holding training sessions for agents. We also offer our best agents opportunities to attend retreats at least twice a year to network with the home office staff that help serve them and our policyholders. In addition, the retreats provide agents with additional knowledge of the products we offer, and serve as a forum for feedback on how we can better serve our agency force and policyholders.

NSFC and Omega products are marketed through a network of independent agents and brokers, who are independent contractors and generally maintain relationships with one or more competing insurance companies. NSFC employs three field marketing representatives who visit in the offices of our independent agent force regularly to give the agents opportunities for feedback. Our NSFC marketing representatives also host training seminars throughout our service area. The goal of these seminars is to educate the independent agent sales force about our products and services.

Agents receive compensation for their sales efforts. In the case of life insurance agents, compensation is paid in the form of sales commissions plus a servicing commission. Commissions paid by NSIC in 2007 averaged approximately 22% of premiums. Commissions paid by NSFC in 2007 averaged approximately 14% of premiums. During 2007, no one independent agent accounted for more than 10% of total net earned premium of the property-casualty insurance subsidiaries. NSFC also offers a "profit sharing bonus plan" to independent agents in order to promote better field underwriting and encourage retention of profitable business. This plan not only rewards our agents but also enhances profitability by giving the agent a vested interest in our success and also aids in maintaining price stability for all our customers as agents have a financial incentive to use good field underwriting practices when completing an application for insurance.

At December 31, 2007, NSIC employed 11 career agents and one regional manager. NSIC also had approximately 550 independent agents actively producing new business.

At December 31, 2007, NSFC had contracts with approximately 1,300 independent agencies in eleven states.

## **Competition**

In both of our insurance segments, we operate in a very competitive environment. There are numerous insurance companies competing in the various states in which we offer our products. Many of the companies with which we compete are much larger, have significantly larger volumes of business, offer much broader ranges of products and have more significant financial resources than we do. We compete directly with many of these companies, not only in the sale of products to consumers, but also in the recruitment and retention of qualified agents. We believe the main areas in which a smaller company, like us, can compete is in the areas of providing niche products in underserved areas of the insurance market at competitive prices while providing excellent service to our agents and policyholders during the entire insurance product lifecycle from policy issuance to final payment of a claim. We pride ourselves on being accessible to our independent agent force and maintain a presence through the efforts of a field marketing staff and easy access to any and all home office staff. We believe we have made significant advancements in

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

developing a competitive advantage, especially over the last decade. We also have longstanding relationships with many of our agents. We believe we compete effectively within the markets we serve and continue to evolve our processes and procedures in order to garner further competitive advantages.

NSFC and Omega's primary insurance products are dwelling fire, homeowners, including mobile homeowners, and private passenger auto coverage. Dwelling fire and homeowners, collectively referred to as the dwelling property line of business, is the largest segment of property and casualty operations composing 94% of total property and casualty premium revenue. We focus on providing niche insurance products within the markets we serve. We are in the top twenty dwelling property insurance carriers in our two largest states, Alabama and Mississippi. However, due to the large concentration of business among the top five carriers our total combined market share in these two states is less than 2%.

We have actively sought competitive advantages over the last five years in the area of technological advancement. We have replaced our primary policy administration systems in both our property and casualty and life insurance subsidiaries. We replaced our legacy policy administration system in our life subsidiary in 2002. In late 2006 and throughout 2007 we began the process in transitioning to a new policy administration system in our property and casualty subsidiary.

The new property and casualty administration system is an internally developed end-to-end system that we believe will significantly enhance our ability to compete with larger carriers in the market we serve. The system features a web based portal that allows our independent agents to rate, quote and issue policies directly in their office. The new system streamlines the underwriting process with automation of many previous manual processes and greatly enhances our agents ability to provide excellent service to their clients. The system also enhances the efficiency of our underwriting process allowing for a more thorough evaluation of risks. While the conversion process will continue into 2008, we believe this new system will greatly enhance our ability to remain competitive in the markets we serve.

## **Regulation**

Our insurance subsidiaries are directly regulated by the insurance department in our state of domicile, Alabama. We are subject to the Alabama Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act and report to the Alabama Department of Insurance. Consequently, we are subject to periodic examination and regulation under Alabama Insurance Laws.

Our insurance subsidiaries are also subject to licensing and supervision by the various governmental agencies in the jurisdictions in which we do business. The nature and extent of such regulation varies, but generally has its source in state statutes which bestow regulatory, supervisory and administrative authority to State Insurance Commissioners and their respective insurance departments. The regulations may require the Company to meet and maintain standards of solvency, comply with licensing requirements, periodically examine market conditions and financial activities and report on the condition of operations and finances. In addition, most of our insurance rates are subject to regulation and approval by regulatory authorities within the respective states in which we offer our products.

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to various statutory restrictions and limitations relating to the payment of dividends or distributions to stockholders. The restrictions are generally based on certain levels of surplus, net income or operating income as determined by statutory accounting practices. Alabama law permits dividends in any year which, together with other dividends made within the preceding 12 months that do not exceed the greater of (1) 10% of statutory surplus as of the end of the preceding year or (2) for property and casualty insurers, statutory net income for the preceding year or for life companies, statutory net gain from operations. Dividends in excess of the restricted amounts are payable only after obtaining regulatory approval. Future dividends from the insurance subsidiaries may be limited by business or regulatory considerations. The Group relies on the ability of the insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends to fund quarterly stockholder dividends and for payment of most operating expenses of the group, including interest and principal payments on debt. We are not currently under any regulatory dividend limitations that may limit our liquidity in the Group. Further discussion of dividend payment capacity of subsidiaries can be found in Note 12 of the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein.

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to risk based capital requirements adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). These requirements direct our insurance companies to calculate and report information according to a risk based formula which attempts to measure statutory capital and surplus needs based on the risk in our product mix and investment portfolio. The formula is designed to allow state insurance regulators to identify companies that are potentially inadequately capitalized. Under the formula, the Company calculates Risk Based Capital (RBC) by taking into account certain risks inherent in an insurer's assets, including investments and an insurer's liabilities.

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Risk based capital rules provide for different levels of action depending on the ratio of a company's total adjusted capital to its "authorized control level" RBC. Based on calculations made by each of our insurance subsidiaries at December 31, 2007, each subsidiary significantly exceeds any levels that would require regulatory actions.

### **A.M. Best Rating**

A.M. Best Company is a leading provider of insurance company financial strength ratings and insurance company issuer credit ratings. Best's financial strength ratings and issuer credit ratings provide an independent opinion based on comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile. The property and casualty companies currently carry an A.M. Best group financial strength rating of B++ (Good) with a stable outlook. This rating has remained the same for the past ten years. The property and casualty group maintains an issuer credit rating of "bbb" with a stable outlook. National Security Insurance Company maintains a company specific financial strength rating of B (Fair) with a stable outlook and an issuer credit rating of "bb" with a stable outlook. For the latest ratings, access [www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com).

### **Employees**

The Company itself has no management or operational employees. Instead all human resource activities are held by subsidiary National Security Insurance Company. NSIC employed 164 staff members as of December 31, 2007. The Company and its property and casualty subsidiary have a Management Service Agreement ("Agreement") with The National Security Insurance Company whereby the Company and the property and casualty subsidiaries reimburse NSIC for salaries and expenses of employees provided under the Agreement. Involved are employees in the areas of Underwriting, Customer Service, Policy Services, Accounting, Marketing, Administration, Document Management, Data Processing, Programming, Personnel, Claims, and Management. The Company, through NSIC, is represented by 14 employee agents in Alabama. The Company's property and casualty subsidiaries had over 1,300 independent agents producing business at December 31, 2007.

The success of the Company is largely dependent upon its relations with its employees. High employee morale is critical to the accomplishment of our mission. Our mission statement declares that we will strive to: 1) Provide financial assurance to policyholders in times of emergencies, crisis or financially difficult times such as fires, natural disasters, accidents, sickness, death, and retirement; 2) Provide a rate of return on invested capital to shareholders equal to or better than industry standards; and 3) Provide an environment in which all employees are enabled, encouraged, and stimulated to perform continuously at their highest level of productivity and creativity thereby attaining the highest possible level of job satisfaction.

The Company has placed an increased emphasis on employee education in recent years. This has resulted in the Company offering financial incentives to employees desiring to further their education, and the establishment of a Plan for Employee Progress (PEP) program. The PEP program rewards employees who take advantage of training opportunities and who excel in the performance of their duties. The potential rewards for successful participants in the program include salary increases and promotions within the Company.

### **Additional information with respect to The National Security Group's business**

We maintain a website ([www.nationalsecuritygroup.com](http://www.nationalsecuritygroup.com)). The National Security Group, Inc.'s annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to such reports that we file or furnish pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are available through our Internet website, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practical upon having been electronically filed or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Our code of ethical conduct is also available on our website and in print to any stockholder who requests copies by contacting The National Security Group, Attn: Investor Relations, P. O. Box 703, Elba, AL 36323.

Any of the materials we file with the SEC may also be read and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1.800.SEC.0330. Our periodic reports filed with the SEC, which include Forms 3, 4 and 5, Form 10-K, Form 10-Q, Form 8-K and any amendments thereto may also be accessed free of charge from the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

Risk factors are events and uncertainties over which the Company has limited or no control and which can have a material adverse impact on our financial condition or results of operations. We are subject to a variety of risk factors. The following information sets forth our evaluation of the risk factors we deem to be most material. We work to actively manage these risks, but the reader should be cautioned that we are only able to mitigate the impact of most risk factors, not eliminate the risk. Also, there may be other risks which we do not presently deem material that may become material in the future.

*Underwriting and product pricing*

The insurance subsidiaries maintain underwriting departments that seek to evaluate the risks associated with the issuance of an insurance policy. NSIC accepts standard risks and, to an extent, substandard risks and engages medical doctors who review certain applications for insurance. In the case of the property and casualty subsidiaries, the underwriting staff attempts to assess, in light of the type of insurance sought by an applicant, the risks associated with a prospective insured or insurance situation. Depending upon the type of insurance involved, the process by which the risks are assessed will vary. In the case of automobile liability insurance, the underwriting staff assesses the risks involved in insuring a particular driver, and in the case of dwelling insurance, the underwriting staff assesses the risks involved in insuring a particular dwelling. Where possible, the underwriting staff of the property-casualty insurance subsidiary utilizes standard procedures as guides that quantify the hazards associated with a particular occupancy. In general, the property and casualty subsidiaries specialize in writing nonstandard risks.

The nonstandard market in which the property and casualty subsidiaries operate reacts to general economic conditions in much the same way as the standard market. When insurers' profits and equity are strong, companies sometimes cut rates or do not seek increases. Also, underwriting rules are less restrictive. As profit and/or capital fall, companies may tighten underwriting rules, and seek rate increases. Premiums in the nonstandard market are higher than the standard market because of the increased risk of the insured, which generally comprises more frequent claims. Drivers of autos who have prior traffic convictions are one such increased risk that warrants higher premiums. Lower valued dwellings and mobile homes also warrant higher premiums because of the nature of the risk. The costs of placing such nonstandard policies and making risk determinations are similar to those of the standard market. The added costs due to more frequent claims servicing is reflected in the generally higher premiums that are charged.

Our ability to maintain profitability is contingent upon our ability to actively manage our rates and underwriting procedures. Premium rate inadequacy may not become apparent quickly and we will incur lag-time to correct. If our rates or underwriting processes become inadequate, our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely impacted.

*Approval of rates*

Most lines of business written by our property and casualty insurers are subject to prior approval of premium rates in the majority of the states in which we operate. The process of obtaining regulatory approval can be expensive and time consuming and can impair our ability to make necessary rate adjustments due to changes in loss experience, cost of reinsurance or other factors. If our requests to regulatory bodies for rate increases are not approved in an adequate or timely manner, our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely impacted.

*Reinsurance*

Both insurance subsidiaries customarily reinsure with other insurers certain portions of the insurance risk. The primary purpose of such reinsurance arrangements is to enable the Company to limit its risk on individual policies, and in the case of property insurance, limit its risk in the event of a catastrophe in various geographic areas. A reinsurance arrangement does not discharge the issuing company from primary liability to the insured, and the issuing company is required to discharge its liability to the insured even if the reinsurer is unable to meet its obligations under the reinsurance arrangements. Reinsurance, however, does make the reinsurer liable to the issuing company to the extent of any reinsurance in force at the time of the loss. Reinsurance arrangements also decrease premiums retained by the issuing company since that company pays the reinsuring company a portion of total premiums based upon the amount of liability reinsured.

NSIC generally reinsures all risks in excess of \$50,000 with respect to any one insured. NSFC and Omega generally reinsure with third parties any liability in excess of \$225,000 on any single policy. In addition, the property and casualty subsidiaries have catastrophe excess reinsurance, which provided protection in part with respect to aggregate property losses arising out of a single catastrophe, such as a hurricane. In 2007, the property and casualty subsidiaries had catastrophe protection up to a \$47.5 million loss. Under the property and casualty subsidiaries reinsurance arrangement in force during 2007, the Company retained the first \$3.5 million of insured losses from any single catastrophic event. The next \$17.5 million in insured losses from any single event was 95% reinsured with the Company's net retention being 5%. The third layer of reinsurance protection provided coverage for 100% of insured losses exceeding \$17.5 million and up to \$42.5 million. In July of 2007, the Company added an additional layer of coverage to the reinsurance program. The fourth layer of reinsurance protection provided coverage for 100% of insured losses in excess of \$42.5 million up to \$47.5 million. The amount of catastrophe reinsurance protection purchased by the Company was based on computer modeling of actual Company exposure. The Company generally seeks catastrophe protection for scenarios based on the computer modeling that mitigates losses up to a near term 1 in 100 year event, further described as an amount at which the probability of not exceeding is not less than 99%. NSFC and Omega had a provision for one reinstatement (coverage for two catastrophic events) during 2007.

Our inability to procure reinsurance, primarily catastrophe reinsurance, could adversely impact our ability to maintain our level or premium revenue.

#### *Risk of loss from catastrophic events and geographic concentration*

As described above, we maintain catastrophe reinsurance in amounts that provides protection to the Company's financial condition in all but the most remote likelihood of occurrences. Our most critical catastrophe risk is from hurricanes due to our proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Our results of operations are very likely to be materially impacted in the event of the landfall of a major hurricane striking the Northern Gulf Coast or Southern Atlantic Coast in Georgia or South Carolina where we maintain significant concentrations of business. We are also exposed to the risk of significant tornado activity in many of the states in which we operate. Our most significant catastrophic event risk is the risk of a loss in excess of the Company's upper catastrophe limit which could adversely impact the Company's financial condition if such an event occurs. We are also subject to assessments from windstorm underwriting pools in various states. These risks are often difficult to measure and in the event of a major catastrophe, could exceed the upper limits of our available reinsurance protection.

#### *Reserve liabilities*

NSIC maintains life insurance reserves for future policy benefits to meet future obligations under outstanding policies. These reserves are calculated to be sufficient to meet policy and contract obligations as they arise. Liabilities for future policy benefits are calculated using assumptions for interest, mortality, morbidity, expense and withdrawals determined at the time the policies were issued. As of December 31, 2007, the total reserves of NSIC (including the reserves for accident and health insurance) were approximately \$28.5 million. We believe that such reserves for future policy benefits are adequate to provide for future policy benefits.

The property and casualty subsidiaries are also required to maintain loss reserves (claim liabilities) for all lines of insurance. Such reserves are intended to cover the probable ultimate cost of settling all claims, including those incurred but not yet reported. The reserves of the property and casualty subsidiaries reflect estimates of the liability with respect to incurred claims and are determined by evaluating reported claims on an ongoing basis and by estimating liabilities for incurred but not reported claims. Such reserves include adjustment expenses to cover the cost of investigating losses and defending lawsuits. The establishment of accurate reserves is complicated by the fact that claims in some lines of

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

insurance are settled many years after the policies have been issued, thus raising the possibility that inflation may have a significant effect on the amount of ultimate loss payment, especially when compared to initial loss estimates. The subsidiaries, however, attempt to restrict their writing to risks that settle within one to four years of issuance of the policy. As of December 31, 2007, the property and casualty subsidiaries had reserves for unpaid claims of approximately \$12 million before subtracting unpaid claims, due from reinsurers of \$560 thousand leaving net unpaid claims of \$11.5 million. The reserves are not discounted for the time value of money. No changes were made in the assumptions used in estimating the reserves during the years ending December 31, 2007, 2006 or 2005. The Company believes such reserves are adequate to provide for settlement of claims.

We incur the risk that we may experience excessive losses due to unanticipated claims frequency, severity or both that may not be factored into our loss reserve liabilities. Unexpected frequency and severity can be adversely impacted by outcomes of claims litigation; adverse jury verdicts related to claims settlements and adverse interpretations of insurance policy provisions which results in increased liabilities. We are also subject to the risk of unanticipated assessments from state underwriting associations or windstorm pools related to losses in excess of the associations or pool's ability to pay. Such costs are often allocated to companies operating in the jurisdiction of the association or windstorm pool and the likelihood and amount of such assessments are difficult to predict. These events could adversely impact our historical loss reserving methodology and cause financial adjustments that could materially impact our financial condition and results of operations.

#### *Financial Ratings*

The insurance subsidiaries are rated by AM Best Company, an insurance company-rating agency. NSFC is rated B++ (Good), Omega is rated B+ (Good) and NSIC is rated B (Fair) by AM Best Company. A downgrade in our AM Best ratings could adversely impact our ability to maintain existing business or generate new business.

#### *Regulation*

The insurance subsidiaries are each subject to regulation by the insurance departments of those states in which they are licensed to conduct business. Although the extent of regulation varies from state to state, the insurance laws of the various states generally establish supervisory departments having broad administrative powers with respect to, among other matters: the granting and revocation of licenses to transact business, the licensing of agents, the establishment of standards of financial solvency (including reserves to be maintained), the nature of investments and in most cases premium rates, the approval of forms and policies, and the form and content of financial statements. The primary purpose of these regulations is the protection of policyholders. Compliance with regulations does not necessarily confer a benefit upon shareholders.

Many states, in which the insurance subsidiaries operate, including Alabama, have laws requiring that insurers become members of guaranty associations. These associations guarantee that benefits due policyholders of insurance companies will continue to be provided even if the insurance company which wrote the business is financially unable to fulfill its obligations. To provide these benefits, the associations assess the insurance companies licensed in a state that write the line of insurance for which coverage is guaranteed. The amount of an insurer's assessment is generally based on the relationship between that company's premium volume in the state and the premium volume of all companies writing the particular line of insurance in the state. The Company has paid no material amounts to guaranty associations over the past three years. These payments, when made, are principally related to association costs incurred due to the insolvency of various insurance companies. Future assessments depend on the number and magnitude of insurance company insolvencies and such assessments are therefore difficult to predict.

Most states have enacted legislation or adopted administrative rules and regulations covering such matters as the acquisition of control of insurance companies, transactions between insurance companies and the persons controlling them. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has recommended model legislation on these subjects and all states where the Company's subsidiaries transact business have adopted, with some modifications, that model legislation. Among the matters regulated by such statutes are the payments of dividends. These regulations have a direct impact on the Company since its cash flow is substantially derived from dividends from its subsidiaries. However, the Company has not had nor does it foresee a problem obtaining the necessary funds to operate because of the regulation. Statutory limitations of dividend payments by subsidiaries are disclosed in Note 12 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

While most regulation is at the state level, the federal government has increasingly expressed an interest in regulating aspects of the insurance industry. All of these regulations at various levels of government increase the cost of conducting business through increased compliance expenses. Also, existing regulations are constantly evolving through administrative and court interpretations and new regulations are often adopted. It is difficult to predict what impact changes in regulation may have on the Company in the future. Changes in regulations could occur that might adversely impact our ability to achieve acceptable levels of profitability and limit our growth.

### *Competition*

The insurance subsidiaries are engaged in a highly competitive business and compete with many insurance companies of substantially greater financial resources, including stock and mutual insurance companies. Mutual insurance companies return profits, if any, to policyholders rather than shareholders; therefore, mutual insurance companies may be able to charge lower net premiums than those charged by stock insurers. Accordingly, stock insurers must attempt to achieve competitive premium rates through greater volume, efficiency of operations and control of expenses.

NSIC primarily markets its life and health insurance products through the home service system and independent producers. Direct competition comes from home service companies and other insurance companies that utilize independent producers to sell insurance products, of which there are many. NSIC's life and health products also compete with products sold by ordinary life companies. NSIC writes policies primarily in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The market share of the total life and health premiums written is small because of the number of insurers in this highly competitive field. The primary methods of competition in the field are service and price.

Because of the increased costs associated with a home service company, premium rates are generally higher than ordinary products, as a result competition from these ordinary insurers must be met through service. Initial costs of distribution through independent agents are generally more than through home service distribution methods, but lower commissions are paid in years subsequent to the first year of the policy so costs decline rapidly as policies renew after the first year. The primary factor in controlling cost under the independent agent distribution method is maintaining a high persistency rate. The persistency rate is the rate at which new business is maintained in renewal periods subsequent to the first year. If a high persistency rate can be maintained, the overall costs of distribution are lowered due to lower commission rate payments on policies in force subsequent to the first year.

The property and casualty subsidiaries market their products through independent agents and brokers, concentrating primarily on dwelling fire, homeowners and nonstandard auto coverage. NSFC, though one of the larger writers of lower value dwelling fire insurance in Alabama, nevertheless faces a number of competitors in this niche. Moreover, larger general line insurers also compete with NSFC. The market share in states other than Alabama is small. Price is the primary method of competition. Because the Company utilizes independent agents, commission rates and service to the agent are also important factors in whether the independent agent agrees to offer NSFC products over those of its competitors.

Significant changes in the competitive environment in which we operate could materially impact our financial condition or results of operations.

### *Inflation*

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

The Company shares the same risks from inflation as other companies. Inflation causes operating expenses to increase and erodes the purchasing power of the Company's assets. A large portion of the Company's assets is invested in fixed maturity investments. The purchasing power of these investments will be less at maturity because of inflation. This is generally offset by the reserves that are a fixed liability and will be paid with cheaper dollars. Also, inflation tends to increase investment yields, which may reduce the impact of the increased operating expenses caused by inflation.

### *Investment Risk and Liquidity*

Our invested assets are managed by company personnel. The majority of these investments consist of fixed maturity securities. These securities are subject to price fluctuations due to changes in interest rates and unfavorable changes could materially reduce the market value of the Company's investment portfolio and adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations. Fixed maturity investments are managed in light of anticipated liquidity needs. Should we experience a significant change in liquidity needs for any reason, we may be forced to sell fixed maturity securities at a loss to cover these liquidity needs. Changes in general economic conditions, the stock market and various other external factors could also adversely impact the value of our investments and consequently our results of operations and financial condition.

*Dependence of the Company on Dividends from Insurance Subsidiaries*

The Company is an insurance holding company with no significant operations. The primary asset of the Company is its stock in the insurance subsidiaries. The Company relies on dividends from the insurance subsidiaries in order to pay operating expenses and to provide liquidity for the payment of dividends to shareholders. The ability of the insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends is subject to regulatory restrictions discussed in detail in note 12 of the consolidated financial statements included herein. Should the insurance subsidiaries become subject to restrictions imposed by insurance regulations regarding the payment of dividends, the ability of the Company to pay expenses, meet debt service requirements and pay cash dividends to shareholders could be adversely impacted.

*Technology*

Our insurance subsidiaries are dependent on computer technology and internet based platforms in the delivery of insurance products. Our ability to innovate and manage technological change is a key to remaining competitive in the insurance industry. A breakdown in major systems or failure to maintain up to date technology could adversely impact our ability to write new business and service existing policyholders which would adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

*Key Personnel*

As a small company within the insurance industry, we could be adversely impacted by the loss of key personnel. Our ability to remain competitive is contingent upon our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel in all aspects of our operations.

*Accounting Standards*

Our financial statements are prepared based upon generally accepted accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board along with standards set by other regulatory organizations. We are required to adopt newly issued or revised accounting standards that are issued periodically. Future changes could impact accounting treatment applied to financial statements and could have a material adverse impact on the Company's results of operations and financial conditions. Potential changes in accounting standards that are currently expected to impact the Company are disclosed in the Notes to Financial Statements included herein.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None

**Item 2. Properties**

Our principal executive offices, owned by NSIC, are located at 661 East Davis Street, Elba, Alabama. The executive offices are shared by the insurance subsidiaries. The building was constructed in 1977 and is approximately 30,700 square feet. The Company completed a major expansion and renovation project in early 2008, adding an additional 4,684 square feet and renovating 3,017 square feet of the existing structure. The Company believes this space to be adequate for its immediate needs.

The Company's subsidiaries own certain real estate properties, including approximately 2,700 acres of timberland in Alabama.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The Company and its subsidiaries are named as parties to litigation related to the conduct of their insurance operations. Further information regarding details of pending suits can be found in Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the three months ended December 31, 2007.

**PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

The capital stock of the Company is traded in the NASDAQ Global Market. Quotations are furnished by the National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotations System (NASDAQ). The trade symbol is NSEC.

The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices per share, as reported by NASDAQ during the period indicated:

	Stock Closing Prices	
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
2007		
First Quarter	\$ 18.25	\$ 16.75
Second Quarter	19.87	17.31
Third Quarter	19.00	15.76
Fourth Quarter	18.72	16.68
2006		
First Quarter	\$ 18.25	\$ 15.70
Second Quarter	18.11	15.77
Third Quarter	17.90	15.40
Fourth Quarter	17.47	15.64

**Shareholders**

The number of shareholders of the Company's capital stock as of January 31, 2008, was approximately 1,400.

**Dividends**

The following table sets forth quarterly dividend payment information for the Company for the periods indicated:

Dividends
-----------

	<u>Per Share</u>
2007	
First Quarter	0.225
Second Quarter	0.225
Third Quarter	0.225
Fourth Quarter	0.225
2006	
First Quarter	0.220
Second Quarter	0.220
Third Quarter	0.220
Fourth Quarter	0.225

Discussion regarding dividend restrictions may be found on page 32 of the Managements' Discussion and Analysis as well as in Note 12 of the consolidated financial statements.

The payment of shareholder dividends is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and is dependent upon many factors including our operating results, financial condition, capital requirements and general economic conditions. Total shareholder dividends paid in 2007 totaled \$2,220,000 which was primarily funded by the insurance subsidiaries. Dividends from the insurance subsidiaries are subject to approval of the regulator in the state of domicile, the Alabama Department of Insurance.

There is a present expectation that dividends will continue to be paid in the future but future dividends are dependent on future earnings, the Company's financial condition and other factors evaluated periodically by management and the Board of Directors.

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

## Five-Year Financial Information:

(Amounts in thousands, except per share)

<u>Operating results</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Net premiums earned	\$ 62,250	\$ 58,874	\$ 53,563	\$ 52,985	\$ 47,536
Net investment income	4,749	4,463	3,964	4,230	4,023
Net realized investment gains	1,493	2,565	3,493	2,162	1,416
Other income	1,071	1,211	1,416	1,312	1,395
Total revenues	\$ 69,563	\$ 67,113	\$ 62,436	\$ 60,689	\$ 54,370
Net Income	\$ 6,040	\$ 4,250	\$ 1,558	\$ 3,113	\$ 4,090
Net income per share	\$ 2.45	\$ 1.72	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.66

<u>Other Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 48,447	\$ 45,379	\$ 43,556	\$ 46,676	\$ 45,872
Book value per share	\$ 19.64	\$ 18.39	\$ 17.66	\$ 18.92	\$ 18.60
Dividends per share	\$ 0.900	\$ 0.885	\$ 0.865	\$ 0.845	\$ 0.825

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Net change in unrealized					
capital gains (net of tax)	\$ (664)	\$ (244)	\$ (2,544)	\$ (225)	\$ 1,658
Total assets	\$ 135,585	\$ 134,911	\$ 139,226	\$ 128,631	\$ 127,236

Quarterly information:

	Premiums	Investment & Other Income	Realized Investment Gains or Losses	Benefits	Net Income (Loss)	Net Income (Loss) Per Share
2007						
1st						
QTR	\$ 15,557	\$ 1,514	\$ 206	\$ 9,208	\$ 1,183	\$ 0.48
2nd						
QTR	14,892	1,458	327	10,124	1,800	0.73
3rd						
QTR	15,913	1,477	(4)	8,927	1,505	0.61
4th						
QTR	15,888	1,371	964	9,419	1,552	0.63
	\$ 62,250	\$ 5,820	\$ 1,493	\$ 37,678	\$ 6,040	\$ 2.45

2006						
1st						
QTR	\$ 14,491	\$ 1,492	\$ 560	\$ 10,680	\$ (141)	\$ (0.06)
2nd						
QTR	14,755	1,347	540	9,566	970	0.39
3rd						
QTR	15,297	1,452	770	9,026	1,836	0.74
4th						
QTR	14,331	1,383	695	8,724	1,585	0.65
	\$ 58,874	\$ 5,674	\$ 2,565	\$ 37,996	\$ 4,250	\$ 1.72





## Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### OVERVIEW

The following discussion highlights significant factors influencing the consolidated financial position and results of operations of The National Security Group, Inc. (referred to in this document as we, our, us, the Company or NSG) and its subsidiaries for the three years ended December 31, 2007. This discussion and analysis of the consolidated results of operations and financial condition of the Company should be read in conjunction with the Selected Financial Data and Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes included elsewhere herein. Please refer to our note regarding forward-looking statements on page 3 of this report.

Financial results for the year 2007 marked the second consecutive year of considerable improvement. Results for 2005 were marred by losses incurred from Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Rita. Two primary major factors contributed to our improved results in 2007. First, our property and casualty insurance operations continued to improve as the year was, for the most part, free of significant storm activity other than some early spring tornadoes. Second, we realized a one time gain on the disposition of the majority of our interest in a 50% owned subsidiary, The Mobile Attic, Inc. in April of 2007. Through this transaction, we posted a gain on disposal of \$1.5 million pushing our consolidated net income to a record \$6.04 million easily topping 2006 results.

We also continued to restore capital and build assets lost during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. We ended the year with shareholders' equity of \$48.45 million which pushed us past pre-hurricane levels last seen in mid-2004. Invested assets increased \$3 million due to positive cash flows of \$3.8 million from our insurance operations.

### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following analysis of the Results of Operations should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements, which begin on Page 37 of this Form 10-K. Primary reference is made to the Consolidated Statements of Income on page 41 and related Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements which begin on Page 44.

#### *Consolidated Results of Operations:*

#### **Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2006**

We reached another milestone in premium revenue in 2007 posting a seventh consecutive year of record premium revenue, an increase of 5.7% over 2006 levels. Growth in the dwelling fire and homeowners lines of business in the property and casualty subsidiaries were the primary contributors to the growth in premium revenue. While the rate of growth is significantly below our 15% annualized growth rate experienced since 2000, the reduction of our growth rate has been necessitated by market conditions. As discussed last year, the more moderate growth rate is in-line with our expectations and is expected to persist over the next two years as we continue to build capital and recover from the adverse

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

operating conditions caused by the unprecedented hurricane activity experienced in 2005 and 2004.

Consolidated income before taxes increased 10.15% from \$6,254,000 in 2006 to \$6,889,000 in 2007. Just as in 2006, increased earnings in the property and casualty subsidiary were the primary contributor to the increase in earnings for 2007. Life segment operations had modest income before taxes in 2007 of \$108,000, compared to a net loss before taxes in 2006 of \$(1,122,000). The improvement in life segment operations is primarily due to the 2006 settlement of longstanding litigation. Non-insurance operations consist of the operations of The National Security Group, Inc.

Net income for the year increased 42.12% to \$6,040,000, or \$2.45 per share, compared with net income of 4,250,000, or \$1.72 per share for 2006. Net income from continuing operations was \$4,721,000 compared to \$4,439,000 in 2006, an increase of 6.35%. Again, increased earnings in the property and casualty subsidiaries were the primary contributor to the increase in net income from continuing operations. A decline in realized investment gains from \$2,565,000 in 2006 to \$1,493,000 in 2007 was primarily due to fewer disposals in the equity investment portfolio of the company. The decline in realized capital gains was offset by net income from discontinued operations of \$1,319,000 which consisted of a gain on disposal of the majority of a 50% investment in Mobile Attic, Inc. in the second quarter of 2007. The Company maintained a 5% interest in Mobile Attic at 12/31/2007.

**Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2005**

The year 2006 marked the sixth consecutive year of record premium revenue for the Company. Our premium revenue for 2006 increased 9.9% over levels achieved in 2005. However, premium revenue in 2005 was reduced by catastrophe reinsurance reinstatement premium totaling \$2,400,000 as a result of reinstatement provisions of our catastrophe reinsurance contract triggered by Hurricane Katrina. We did not incur any hurricane losses in 2006 and therefore incurred no reduction in earned premium due to charges for catastrophe reinstatement premium. Without the impact of the reduction in 2005 premium revenue for catastrophe reinstatement premium, year over year premium revenue increased by 5.2%.

Consolidated income before income taxes increased 212% from \$2,002,000 in 2005 to \$6,254,000 in 2006. A significant improvement in our property-casualty segment operations due to the lack of hurricane activity was the primary factor contributing to the improved consolidated results. Life segment operations incurred a net loss before taxes in 2006 of \$(658,000), significantly higher than the loss incurred in 2005 of \$(297,000). Upward revisions in a litigation settlement adversely impacted life operations for both years. However, the longstanding litigation was settled in 2006.

Consolidated net income for 2006 was \$4,250,000 compared to \$1,558,000 in 2005. On a per share basis, net income was \$1.72 in 2006 compared to \$0.63 in 2005. Hurricane losses reduced our 2005 net income by \$6,804,000 or \$2.76 per share. Despite the lack of hurricane activity in 2006, we still incurred losses from catastrophic events in the form of tornado and hail losses that totaled \$1,386,000 net of tax and reduced 2006 net income by \$0.56 per share. These tornado and hail losses were incurred during the January through April time period of 2006. Partially offsetting 2005 hurricane losses, we realized investment gains of \$3,493,000 resulting from the sale of investment securities. Realized investment gains in 2006 totaled \$2,565,000, down 27% compared to 2005. Our decisions to sell securities and therefore realize investment gains on our investments is dictated by considerations of market conditions, short term liquidity needs and tax implications, among other factors, and are subject to significant fluctuation from period to period.

*Industry Segment Data*

Certain financial information for The National Security Group's three segments (Life segment, property and casualty segment, and other non-insurance) is summarized as follows (amounts in thousands) :

Premium revenues:						
	2007	%	2006	%	2005	%
Life, accident and health insurance	\$ 7,031	11.29%	\$ 6,550	11.13%	\$ 6,234	11.64%
Property and casualty insurance	55,219	88.71%	52,324	88.87%	47,329	88.36%
	\$ 62,250	100.00%	\$ 58,874	100.00%	\$ 53,563	100.00%



*Life and Accident and Health Insurance Operations:*

The Company's life, accident and health insurance business is conducted through National Security Insurance Company (NSIC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company organized in 1947. Our life segment is the smaller of our insurance segments contributing 11% of total insurance premium revenue for both 2007 and 2006. Premium revenues and operating income for the life segment for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 are summarized below:

	2007	2006	2005
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Net premiums earned	\$ 7,031	\$ 6,550	\$ 6,234
Net investment income	1,796	1,785	1,619
Net realized investment gains	143	582	215
Other income	6	2	52
	8,976	8,919	8,120
<b>BENEFITS AND EXPENSES</b>			
Policyholder benefits paid or provided	5,489	5,535	3,904
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	(715)	(500)	448
Commissions	1,565	1,418	1,384
General and administrative expenses	2,168	3,217	2,283
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	293	288	372
Interest expense	68	83	114
	8,868	10,041	8,505
<b>Income Before Income Taxes and Minority Interest</b>	108	(1,122)	(385)
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT)</b>			
Current	734	(332)	(228)
Deferred	(603)	(132)	140
	131	(464)	(88)
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>	(23)	(658)	(297)
<b>Net Income from Discontinued Operations</b>	-	-	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ (23)	\$ (658)	\$ (297)

**Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2006:**

Premium revenue in the life and accident and health segment totaled \$7,031,000 in 2007 compared to \$6,550,000 in 2006, an increase of over 7%. Continued growth in the independent agent method of distribution was the primary contributing factor with an increase in premium revenue just under 15%. The growth in the independent agent distribution method helped offset the moderate decrease in premium revenue of 3% in the traditional home service method of distribution.

While the overall rate of premium revenue growth in the life segment has moderated, the quality of business has continued to improve. The lapse rate is a measure of the percentage of business in force that is cancelled during the year due to non-payment of premium or surrender for cash value by the policyholder. In our traditional home service market, the lapse rate has often approached 50%; however, with the shift to the independent agent method of distribution we have experienced significant improvement in our lapse rate. The lapse rate for 2007 was 14.9% a significant improvement over our lapse rate in 2006 of 19.6%. Our lapse rates will generally be higher than the insurance market as a whole because our products are primarily intended for low to middle income consumers that may face other economic pressures from time to time. With decreases in disposable income during economic downturns, often life and supplemental health insurance products are among the first items to be trimmed from household budgets. Also, lapse rates are significantly higher in the first year after an insurance policy is sold to a consumer. We remain cautious about our ability to continue to show improvement in our lapse rate as the current economic downturn we are experiencing could adversely impact our ability to retain business.

NSIC posted a net loss of \$23,000 in 2007 compared to a net loss of \$658,000 in 2006. Increased charges associated with a litigation settlement were the primary factor contributing to the higher net loss in 2006. Results for 2007 were adversely impacted by higher claims settlements with approximately \$300,000 associated with a program discontinued in early 2007 and another \$250,000 associated with final charges associated with the litigation settlement reached during 2006.

**Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2005:**

Premium revenue increased 5% to \$6,550,000 in 2006 compared to \$6,234,000 in 2005. Insurance products sold through independent agents now account for 50% of total premium revenue, while the home service method of distribution accounts for 41% of total premium revenue. Premium revenue through the independent agent distribution method continues to grow at a healthy pace, with revenue increasing 15% in 2006 compared to 2005. Home service premium revenue has continued its consistent rate of decline, dropping 5.3% in 2006 compared to 2005.

The lapse rate for 2006 was 19.6% a marginal improvement over our lapse rate in 2005 of 20.4%. As was discussed last year, during 2005 we became more selective in the appointment of new agents and terminated agreements with agents that produced little new business or had very high lapse rates. We believe these efforts are beginning to show results as our lapse rate continues to improve.

Commission expense, including field servicing cost from the home service method of distribution, as a percent of premium revenue had a moderate decrease of 0.6% in 2006 compared to 2005. Independent agent commission expense and other costs of distribution declined 4.9 percentage points in 2006 compared to 2005. Life insurance commission rates for independent agents are typically front loaded. This means that higher commissions are paid in the early years of a policy and commission rates decline as the policy ages. Because the independent agent method of distribution is a relatively new method of distribution, overall commission rates are skewed higher because the majority of in force policies are still paying the higher commission rates of the early years. Management is continuing to focus on reducing commissions through improving the rate of retention of new and existing business.

NSIC incurred a net loss of \$(658,000) in 2006 compared to a net loss of \$(297,000) in 2005. Litigation expenses totaling over \$1.1 million and \$375,000 in 2006 and 2005 respectively were the primary factors contributing to the poor results. The litigation related expenses are primarily related to a longstanding class action lawsuit that was settled in 2006. Due to the nature of this litigation, it was difficult to predict the ultimate outcome over the last five years and consequently, we have experienced several upward revisions in our estimates.



**Property & Casualty Operations:**

The Company's property and casualty insurance business is conducted through National Security Fire & Casualty Company (NSFC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company organized in 1959, and Omega One Insurance Company (Omega), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Security Fire & Casualty Company organized in 1992. Property and casualty operations constitute our largest segment composing 89% of our total premium revenue in 2007 and 2006. Premium revenues and operating income for the life segment for the years ended December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005 are summarized below:

	2007	2006	2005
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Net premiums earned	\$ 55,219	\$ 52,324	\$ 47,329
Net investment income	2,823	2,591	2,323
Net realized investment gains	1,350	1,983	3,278
Other income	1,065	1,208	1,364
	60,457	58,106	54,294
<b>BENEFITS AND EXPENSES</b>			
Policyholder benefits paid or provided	32,189	32,461	34,337
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	3,274	2,478	2,256
Commissions	7,788	7,503	7,603
General and administrative expenses	6,580	5,625	5,525
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	2,032	1,441	1,871
Interest expense	-	-	15
	51,863	49,508	51,607
<b>Income Before Income Taxes and Minority Interest</b>	8,594	8,598	2,687
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT)</b>			
Current	1,718	2,623	571
Deferred	869	130	(6)
	2,587	2,753	565
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>	6,007	5,845	2,122
<b>Net Income from Discontinued Operations</b>	-	-	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 6,007	\$ 5,845	\$ 2,122

**Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2006:**

Property and casualty premium revenues totaled \$55,219,000 in 2007 compared to \$52,324,000 in 2006, an increase of 5.5%.

A primary focus in 2007 was working toward improving profitability in all dwelling property lines. The mobile homeowners program showed significant improvement from an underwriting loss of \$(237,063) in 2006 to an underwriting income of \$583,760 in 2007. The dwelling fire program ended 2007 with underwriting income up almost 60% compared to the same period last year. In addition, the ocean marine program made a significant turnaround ending 2007 with an underwriting income of \$371,538 compared to a loss from underwriting of \$(393,434) in 2006.

NSFC ended 2006 with four dwelling lines operating with an underwriting loss. During 2007 the company focused on rate adjustments where needed as well as an in-depth analysis of profitability by product which decreased the number of programs with underwriting losses from four in 2006 to two in 2007. The two programs experiencing underwriting losses were the limited homeowners program and the St. Louis taxicab program. The limited homeowners program and taxicab program ended 2007 with underwriting losses of \$(2,238,721) and \$(261,769), respectively compared to \$(2,234,888) and \$(72,707), respectively for the same period last year. A primary reason for the significant losses in the limited homeowners program was a high frequency of fire related losses. The taxicab program settled several large litigation claims which negatively impacted the results for this line of business. A primary focus in 2008 will be working toward improving results in the limited homeowners line of business as well as continued profitability in the other lines of business.

Due to the unprecedented hurricane activity in 2004 and 2005, we have experienced a significant increase in the cost of our catastrophe reinsurance over the last three years. Our catastrophe reinsurance rate increased 12.8% from 2006 to 2007. In order to minimize the impact of the rate increase, we increased our reinsurance deductible by 50% to \$3 million in 2006 and 16.7% to \$3.5 million in 2007. We also added an additional layer of reinsurance protection during 2007 which increased our coverage from an ultimate loss payout of \$42.5 million to \$47.5 million. Reinsurance rates are not subject to review by state insurance regulators and are more market driven allowing reinsurers to react more rapidly to changing market conditions. Consequently, we incur significant lag time between the time we incur an increase in our cost of reinsurance and the time we are able to reflect these increased costs in our rates. Our rates are subject to review and approval by state regulators and consequently we often experience significant delays in our ability to adjust rates. These delays result in lag times of at least six months and can last up to 18 months. Also, we have experienced political climates in some states that make it difficult for us to factor in the full impact of our increased cost of claims and reinsurance especially in many coastal areas of the Southeast US. However, we made significant progress in adjusting our rates in 2007 and experienced some moderation in our catastrophe reinsurance rates for 2008, so we expect a more favorable pricing environment in 2008 particularly in our homeowners program which has significantly underperformed.

Several of the property and casualty programs showed improved results with a decline in the loss ratio. The core line of business is the dwelling fire program which ended 2007 with a loss ratio of 56.2% compared to 59.5% for the same period last year. Additional noteworthy programs were the mobile homeowners and ocean marine lines of business which ended 2007 with loss ratios of 55.6% and 31%, respectively compared to 70% and 91.5%, respectively for 2006.

We routinely evaluate our claims frequency and severity statistics in order to better understand the nature of our risks and aid in the loss reserve liability evaluation process. Claims frequency is a measure of the number of claims incurred during a measurement period regardless of amount. Claims severity is a measure of the average dollar amount of claims during a measurement period.

Throughout 2007, the frequency of claims declined as compared to 2006 however the severity of claims increased. During 2007, the company incurred 5,633 dwelling and homeowner claims compared to 6,469 for the same period last year; a decrease of 836 claims. Gross claims for 2007 totaled \$28,662,000 which was \$1,021,000 more than 2006. The severity of claims increased from an average claim payment of \$4,272 in 2006 to \$5,088 in 2007 primarily due to an increase in larger fire losses.

Due to the increased cost of litigation associated with Hurricane Katrina claims in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, we continued to incur adverse claims development associated with this storm. At December 31, 2007 our total projected (paid and unpaid) claims associated with Katrina were expected to exceed our available catastrophe reinsurance protection by approximately \$300,000. The total remaining open claims total less than one tenth of 1% of the total claims reported during Hurricane Katrina. These remaining open claims (less than 100 claims) are in various stages of litigation. While we believe current reserves are adequate to cover remaining costs associated with settlement of these claims, due to the uncertainty of the litigation environment related to Hurricane Katrina claims we can not be certain that we will not have any additional adverse development.

Property and casualty income before income taxes was \$8,594,000 for 2007 compared to \$8,598,000 in 2006. Our combined ratio for 2007 was 94.2% compared to 95.7% in 2006. The combined ratio for 2007 of 94.2% included catastrophe related tornado and hail storm losses totaling over \$921,000 and adding 1.7% to our combined ratio. The primary reason for the reduction in the combined ratio was a decline in catastrophe related losses. In 2006 catastrophe related tornado and hail storm losses totaled \$1,386,000.



**Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2005:**

Property and casualty premium revenues totaled \$52,324,000 in 2006 compared to \$47,329,000 in 2005, an increase of 10.6%. Catastrophe reinstatement premium charges totaling \$2,400,000 reduced 2005 premium revenue by five percentage points. We did not experience any losses that exceeded our catastrophe reinsurance retention limit of \$3,000,000 per event in 2006, so no catastrophe reinstatement premium charges were incurred in 2006. Without the reinstatement premium charge in 2005, premium revenue in 2006 increased 5.2% over 2005.

Overall premium revenue growth has moderated significantly over the past two years, compared to our 17% compound annual growth rate experienced since 2000. We expect the trend of more moderate growth to continue in 2007 as we focus on improvement in profitability of all lines of business, institute rate increases dictated by the significant increase in our catastrophe reinsurance protection and rebuild capital levels after the adverse impact of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.

While the lack of hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast were the primary drivers of our improved operating performance, we still incurred significant losses in our two primary lines of business. Our dwelling and homeowners lines of business incurred \$2.0 million in tornado and hail storm related losses in the first half of 2006 (\$1,386,000 net of tax). These events increased our combined ratio for the year by four percentage points. However, these amounts were within our expectations of losses to be incurred in a more normal year and losses from catastrophe related events were down significantly compared to 2005 and 2004.

The primary line of business in which we are continuing to adjust rates in order to improve profitability is our homeowners line of business. This line of business composes 23% of our total property and casualty premium revenue. The line of business has not performed to our expectations with a combined ratio of 112% in 2006.

Our core dwelling fire line of business produced solid results in 2006 with a combined ratio of 93%. The dwelling fire line of business produces 41% of total property and casualty premium revenue and is our largest contributor to underwriting profits.

Claims frequency decreased significantly in 2006 compared to 2005. In 2006, we incurred 6,500 claims compared to over 15,800 claims in 2005. Claims frequency in 2005 was higher due to 8,450, 1,600 and 500 claims from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Dennis. Non-hurricane related claims in 2005 totaled 5,250. The increase in claims, not counting hurricanes, from 2005 to 2006 is primarily related to early season hail storm and tornado losses experienced in the first half of 2006. Hail storms significantly increase frequency but usually carry a relatively low severity while tornado claims carry a lower frequency than hurricanes but usually carry a higher average severity than hurricanes.

While the overall frequency of claims declined significantly in 2006 compared to 2005, the more severe spring storm season resulted in a higher frequency of tornado losses elevating the average severity of claims in the dwelling fire and homeowners line of business. The average severity for 2006 was \$4,272 per claim compared to \$4,086 per claim in 2005. Again, the increase is primarily attributable to the increased tornado related losses in the first half of 2006 compared to 2005.

While this event had no material impact on our earnings, we did incur an additional assessment from the Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association (MWUA) in 2006 totaling over \$6,200,000. This assessment was in addition to assessments totaling over \$3,000,000 paid in 2005. This assessment was for additional losses incurred by MWUA from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. MWUA is a form of residual market or pooling arrangement that provides coverage to those that are unable to find private insurers willing to insure them. All licensed property and casualty insurers writing applicable coverage are required to participate in these pooling entities. Should the pooling entity incur losses in excess of its ability to pay, the industry participants in the respective states are assessed for the excess losses. Due to the extensive growth and development in the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico over the last decade, many of the pools in the states in which we operate, particularly Alabama and Mississippi, have experienced extensive growth. Fortunately, in the case of the MWUA assessment we had adequate reinsurance protection in place and this assessment was covered 100% by our catastrophe reinsurance. We did incur an additional charge for pro-rata reinstatement premium due to the assessment. However, this charge was not material to our earnings.

While the MWUA assessment was covered by our catastrophe coverage and had no impact on 2006 earnings, it is still noteworthy because it brings to light the magnitude of risk that companies incur from coastal pools. First of all, this charge further depleted our remaining reinsurance protection available to cover claims we pay directly for Hurricane Katrina. The assessment brought us to within less than \$1,000,000 of depleting our final layer of reinsurance protection. While we do not expect any additional material development associated with Katrina, should we exceed our final layer of coverage, we would incur additional charges to earnings for the losses in excess of our catastrophe reinsurance protection. Also, this assessment exposes the magnitude to which many of the coastal pools maintain inadequate catastrophe reinsurance protection. While some states in which we operate are pursuing changes in the structure of their coastal underwriting pools and seeking additional reinsurance protection, our risk in these pools remains difficult to quantify. We continue to actively pursue options to better manage this risk, however, as discussed earlier in our risk factors section of this report, organizational structure and equitability of state underwriting pools remain a primary concern and focus for us going forward.

Property and casualty income before income taxes was \$8,598,000 for 2006 compared to \$2,687,000 in 2005. Our combined ratio for 2006 was 95.7% compared to 106.6% in 2005. The combined ratio for 2006 of 95.7% included catastrophe related tornado and hail storm losses totaling over \$2,100,000 which added 4.0% to our combined ratio. Without the impact of hurricanes in 2005, our combined ratio was 89.9%. As discussed previously and as indicated by evaluation of our combined ratio, the significant decline in catastrophe losses was the primary driver of the improved results.

***Property & Casualty Combined Ratio:***

A measure used to analyze a property/casualty insurer's underwriting performance is the combined ratio. It is the sum of two ratios:

- a. The loss and loss expense ratio, which measures losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred as a percentage of premium revenue.
- b. The underwriting expense ratio, which measures underwriting expenses incurred (e.g., agents' commissions, premium taxes, and other administrative underwriting expenses) as a percentage of premium revenue.

The results of these ratios for the past three years were:

	2007	2006	2005
Loss and LAE Ratio	53.3%	63.5%	74.4%
Underwriting Expense Ratio	40.9%	32.2%	32.2%
Combined Ratio	94.2%	95.7%	106.6%

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Maintaining a combined ratio below 100%, which indicates that the company is making an underwriting profit, depends upon many factors including hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Atlantic coast, strict underwriting of risks, and adequate and timely premium rates. A major hurricane hitting the coast of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, or Texas could cause the combined ratio to fluctuate materially from prior years. The property and casualty subsidiaries maintain catastrophe reinsurance to minimize the effect of a major catastrophe.

The combined ratio for 2007 improved slightly at 94.2% compared to 95.7% in 2006. No hurricane activity was experienced in 2007 along with reduced tornado and hail storm losses led to the reduction in the combined ratio.

The combined ratio for 2006 compared to 2005 improved 10.9 percentage points. No hurricane activity during 2006 led to the reduction in the combined ratio.

*Non-insurance Operations:*

	2007	2006	2005
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Net premiums earned	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net investment income	130	87	22
Net realized investment gains	-	-	-
Other income	-	1	-
	130	88	22
<b>BENEFITS AND EXPENSES</b>			
Policyholder benefits paid or provided	-	-	-
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	-	-	-
Commissions	-	-	-
General and administrative expenses	931	299	103
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	-	-	-
Interest expense	1,012	1,011	219
	1,943	1,310	322
<b>Income Before Income Taxes and Minority Interest</b>	(1,813)	(1,222)	(300)
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT)</b>			
Current	(641)	(384)	188
Deferred	91	(90)	(84)
	(550)	(474)	104
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>	(1,263)	(748)	(404)
<b>Net Income from Discontinued Operations</b>	1,319	(189)	137
<b>NET INCOME</b>	\$ 56	\$ (937)	\$ (267)

The non-insurance operations of the Company consist of our parent company, The National Security Group, Inc. The National Security Group has no material sources of revenue and relies almost entirely on dividends from the insurance operations to pay expenses. These dividends are eliminated upon consolidation of the subsidiaries in the audited financials included herein. The expenses of the group consist of expenses associated with the public listing of our stock, taxes and fees, and directors' fees. The most significant expense of the group is interest expense associated with \$12,372,000 in debt. This debt is composed of two trust preferred securities offerings, the first being \$9,279,000 issued in the December 2005 and the second being \$3,093,000 issued in June 2007. The primary use for these proceeds was to add capital to the property and casualty subsidiaries to allow flexibility in continuing to increase new business production at a moderate rate. Total interest expense for the Group associated with these borrowings in 2007 was \$1,012,000 compared to \$1,011,000 in 2006.

*Discontinued Operations:*

Discontinued operations consist of the operations of Mobile Attic Inc. On April 5, 2007, The National Security Group, Inc. entered into an agreement with a private investment group to sell ninety percent of its fifty percent equity interest in Mobile Attic, Inc. Total cash proceeds from the sale were \$2,700,000 and the net gain on the disposal totaled \$1,460,000. Under the terms of the agreement, NSG transferred assets of approximately \$11,688,000 consisting primarily of portable storage leasing equipment. NSG was also released from debt obligations totaling \$10,251,000 consisting primarily of short term debt used to finance portable storage leasing equipment.

For 2007, total net income from discontinued operations totaled \$1,319,000 compared to a net loss from discontinued operations of \$189,000 in 2006. The gain on disposal of Mobile Attic was the primary difference contributing to net income from discontinued operations in 2007.

For 2006, Mobile Attic posted a net loss from discontinued operations of \$189,000 compared to net income of \$137,000 in 2005. A decline in leasing revenues due to a decline in rental rates of a major customer was the primary factor contributing to the decline in profitability from 2005 to 2006.

**Asset Portfolio Review:**

The life insurance and property/casualty subsidiaries primarily invest in highly liquid investment grade debt and equity securities. At December 31, 2007, the company's holdings in debt securities amounted to 77.7% of total investments and 62% of total assets. The following is a breakdown of the bond portfolio quality according to the nationally recognized rating organization equivalents of Standard and Poor's:

<b>Investment Portfolio</b>	
S&P or Equivalent Ratings	% of Total Bond Portfolio
AAA	81.67%
AA	0.25%
AA-	1.71%
A+	1.56%
A	5.70%
A-	0.59%
BBB+	1.83%
BBB	2.86%
BBB-	2.54%
BB+	0.29%
BB	0.00%
BB-	0.00%
B+	0.00%
B	0.28%
B-	0.73%



The Company classifies fixed maturity securities in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement 115 and has classified a portion of its fixed maturity securities portfolio as “available-for-sale,” with the remainder being classified as “held-to-maturity.” The fixed maturity securities classified as “available-for-sale” are carried at fair value and changes in fair values, net of related income taxes, are charged or credited to shareholders’ equity (see Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements).

The insurance subsidiaries’ fixed maturity securities include mortgage-backed bonds, primarily collateralized mortgage obligations (CMO’s), of \$24.2 million and \$21.6 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006 respectively. The mortgage-backed bonds are subject to risks associated with variable prepayments of the underlying mortgage loans. Prepayments cause those securities to have different actual maturities than were expected at the time of purchase. Securities that are purchased at a premium to par value and prepay faster than expected will incur a reduction in yield or loss. Securities that are purchased at a discount to par value and prepay faster than expected will generate an increase in yield or gain. The degree to which a security is susceptible to either gains or losses is influenced by the difference between amortized cost and par value, the relative sensitivity of the underlying mortgages backing the assets to prepayments in a changing interest rate environment and the repayment priority of the securities in the overall securitization structure. In order to minimize risk associated with prepayments on collateralized mortgage obligations, the Company typically invests primarily in more predictable planned amortization class (PAC) structures of CMO’s and typically avoids investment in CMO’s priced at significant premiums above par value.

At December 31, 2007 less than 1% of total investments in the fixed income portfolio was classified as below investment grade. Due to the high concentration of government and agency securities, we have experienced no material write-downs during 2007 in values of investments in the fixed income portfolio.

The results with respect to the foregoing investments are as follows:

	Year Ended December 31		
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Net investment income	\$ 4,749	\$ 4,463	\$ 3,964
Average current yield on investments	4.5%	4.4%	4.0%
Total return on investments	4.8%	6.3%	3.8%
Net realized gains on investments (before taxes)	\$ 1,493	\$ 2,565	\$ 3,493
Changes in net unrealized gains on investments (before income taxes)	\$ (1,103)	\$ (366)	\$ (3,689)

As of December 31, 2007, the maturity schedule for all bonds and notes held by the Company, stated at amortized cost, was as follows:

## Maturity Schedule (Amounts in thousands)

Maturity	Available for sale	Held to Maturity	Total	Percentage of Total
Maturity in less than 1 year	\$ 4,203	\$ 325	\$ 4,528	5.3%
Maturity in 1-5 years	10,857	2,778	13,635	16.1%
Maturity in 5-10 years	19,951	7,303	27,254	32.2%
Maturity after 10 years	32,377	6,904	39,281	46.4%
	\$ 67,388	\$ 17,310	\$ 84,698	100.0%

It should be noted that the above table is maturities based on stated maturity. Due to call and prepayment features inherent in some debt securities, actual repayment will differ from stated maturities. The Company routinely evaluates the impact of changing interest rates on the projected maturities of bonds in the portfolio and actively manages the portfolio in order to minimize the impact of interest rate risk.

*Liquidity and Capital Resources*

Due to regulatory restrictions, the majority of the Company's cash is required to be invested in investment-grade securities to provide ample protection for policyholders. The liabilities of the property and casualty insurance subsidiaries are of various terms and, therefore, those subsidiaries invest in securities with various maturities spread over periods usually not exceeding 10 years. The liabilities of the life insurance subsidiary are typically of a longer duration, and therefore, a higher percentage of securities in the life insurance subsidiary are invested for periods exceeding 10 years.

The liquidity requirements for the Company are primarily met by funds generated from operations of the life insurance and property/casualty insurance subsidiaries. Premium and investment income as well as maturities and sales of invested assets provide the primary sources of cash for both the life and property/casualty businesses, while applications of cash are applied by both businesses to the payment of policy benefits, the cost of acquiring new business (principally commissions), operating expenses, purchases of new investments, and in the case of life insurance, policy loans.

The National Security Group's consolidated statement of cash flows indicates that operating activities provided (used) cash of \$3,833,000, \$7,802,000, and \$(5,449,000) in 2007, 2006, and 2005, respectively. The considerable decrease in cash flow from operating activities in 2007 is primarily due to reduction in amounts recovered under reinsurance contracts by the property and casualty subsidiaries. The significant increase in cash flow from operating activities in 2006 was primarily due to the improvement in underwriting results in the property and casualty subsidiaries and significant recoveries from reinsurers associated with prior year hurricanes. The negative cash flow from operations in 2005 was due to the significant increase in hurricane losses.

The consolidated statement of cash flows also reflects a (decrease) increase in cash from financing activities of \$(364,000), \$(4,264,000), and \$4,934,000, respectively. Cash flows from financing activities in 2007 reflect proceeds from a trust preferred securities offering of \$3,093,000, repayment of debt of \$2,171,000 and shareholder dividends of \$2,220,000. The decrease in cash flow from financing activities in 2006 reflects the reduction of debt held by Mobile Attic of \$1,779,000 and the payment of shareholder dividends of \$2,183,000. Cash flow from financing activities in 2005 reflects proceeds from a trust preferred securities offering of \$9,279,000, repayment of Mobile Attic debt of \$2,209,000 and payment of shareholder dividends of \$2,134,000.

Payments due by period					
(\$ in thousands)					
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Contractual Obligations					
Debt Obligations	\$ 13,272	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,372
Property and casualty claim reserves	\$ 11,973	\$ 7,302	\$ 3,830	\$ 599	\$ 242

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Short term debt obligations consist of a \$900,000 revolving line of credit. The line of credit is due in April 2008 and management anticipates repaying the line of credit at maturity.

Included in long term debt held by the Company is the issuance of \$9,279,000 in subordinated debentures completed on December 15, 2005. The proceeds from the debentures were used to make a \$6,000,000 capital infusion in the P&C subsidiary National Security Fire and Casualty with the remainder to be held for general corporate purposes. The subordinated debentures mature December 15, 2035. It is anticipated that principal payments will not be made until the expiration of the fixed rate period on the debt in 2015. Also included in long-term debt is the issuance of \$3,093,000 in subordinated debentures completed June 21, 2007. The proceeds from the debentures were used to fund general corporate expenses thereby reducing the amount of dividends to the Group paid by the P&C subsidiary National Security Fire & Casualty thereby continuing to restore capital in the P&C subsidiary National Security Fire and Casualty to pre-hurricane levels. The second issue matures June 15, 2037 and may be redeemed following the fifth anniversary of issuance. For further discussion of the subordinated debentures please review Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements and Form 8-Ks filed June 14, 2007 and December 12, 2005, which is incorporated herein by reference.

In estimating the time interval for payment of property and casualty claim reserves, the Company utilized historical payment patterns. By the nature of the insurance contracts under which these liabilities exist, there can be no certainty that actual payments will fall in the periods indicated above. However, management feels that current liquidity and capital resources are sufficient to pay these obligations as they come due. Also, due to the relatively short-tail nature of the majority of the Company's claim liabilities, management can conclude with a reasonable level of confidence that historical patterns indicate that approximately 70% of claim liabilities at the end of a given year are settled within the following two year period.

The ability of the Company to meet its commitments for timely payment of claims and other expenses depends, in addition to current cash flow, on the liquidity of its investments. On December 31, 2007, the Company had no known impairments of assets or changes in operation, which would have a material adverse effect upon liquidity. Approximately 76% of the Company's insurance subsidiary assets are invested in cash, investment grade fixed income securities, short-term investments and broadly traded equity securities, which are highly liquid. The values of these investments are subject to the conditions of the markets in which they are traded. Past fluctuations in these markets have had little effect on the liquidity of the Company. The Company has relatively little exposure to lower grade fixed income investments which might be especially subject to liquidity problems due to thinly traded markets.

Except as discussed in Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company is aware of no known trends, events, or uncertainties reasonably likely to have a material effect on its liquidity, capital resources, or operations. Additionally, the Company has not been made aware of any recommendations of regulatory authorities, which if implemented, would have such an effect.

As disclosed in Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements, in 2008, the amount that The National Security Group's insurance subsidiaries can transfer in the form of dividends to the parent company is limited to \$889,000 in the life insurance subsidiary and \$4,609,000 in the property/casualty insurance subsidiary. However, that condition poses no current short-term or long-term liquidity concerns for the parent company.

#### *Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements*

The Company has no material off balance sheet arrangements.

#### *Statutory Risk-Based Capital of Insurance Subsidiaries*

The NAIC has adopted Risk-Based Capital (RBC) requirements for life/health and property/casualty insurance companies to evaluate the adequacy of statutory capital and surplus in relation to investment and insurance risks such as asset quality, mortality and morbidity, asset and liability matching, benefit and loss reserve adequacy, and other business factors. State insurance regulators will use the RBC formula as an early warning tool to identify, for the purpose of initiating regulatory action, insurance companies that potentially are inadequately capitalized. In addition, the formula defines minimum capital standards that will supplement the current system of low fixed minimum capital and surplus requirements on a state-by-state basis. Regulatory compliance is determined by a ratio of the company's regulatory total adjusted capital, as

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

defined by the NAIC, to its authorized control level RBC, as defined by the NAIC. Companies below specific trigger points or ratios are classified within levels, each of which requires corrective action.

The levels and ratios are as follows:

Ratio of Total Adjusted Capital to Authorized Control Level RBC	
<u>Regulatory Event (Less Than or Equal to)</u>	
Company action level	2.0
Regulatory action level	1.5
Authorized control level	1.0
Mandatory control level	0.7

The ratios of Total Adjusted Capital to Authorized Control Level RBC for The National Security Group's life/health and property/casualty insurance subsidiaries are all in excess of 5.3 to 1 at December 31, 2007.

National Security Insurance Company (life insurer) has regulatory adjusted capital of \$9.9 and \$10.3 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, and a ratio of regulatory total adjusted capital to authorized control level RBC of 11.8 and 11.7 at December 31, 2007 and 2006 respectively. Accordingly, National Security Insurance Company exceeds the minimum RBC requirements.

National Security Fire & Casualty Company (property/casualty insurer) has regulatory adjusted capital of \$34.1 million and \$32.6 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, and a ratio of regulatory total adjusted capital to authorized control level RBC of 5.3 and 6.2 at December 31, 2007 and 2006 respectively. Accordingly, National Security Fire & Casualty Company exceeds the minimum RBC requirements.

Omega One Insurance Company (property/casualty insurer), which began writing business in late 1995, has regulatory adjusted capital of \$9.6 million and \$9.0 million at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, and a ratio of regulatory total adjusted capital to authorized control level RBC of 24.4 and 21.8 at December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Accordingly, Omega One Insurance Company exceeds the minimum RBC requirements.

#### *Application of Critical Accounting Policies*

Our consolidated financial statements are based upon the development and application of accounting policies that require management to make significant estimates and assumptions. Accounting policies may be based on (including but not limited to) GAAP authoritative literature, statutory authoritative literature, regulations and industry standards. The Company's financial results would be directly impacted by changes in assumptions and judgments used to select and apply our accounting policies. It is management's opinion that the following are some of the more critical judgment areas in regards to the application of our accounting policies and their affect on our financial condition and results of operations.

- Reinsurance Receivables
- Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs
- Deferred Taxes
- Valuation of Investments
- Reserves for losses and loss adjustment expense

- Recognition of Revenue
- Evaluation of Litigation

*Reinsurance*

As part of our risk management strategy, we routinely cede risks associated with insurance policies we underwrite to reinsurers pursuant to contractual agreements. Reinsurance provides protection for individual loss occurrences, including catastrophes, to alleviate fluctuation in the results of our underwriting activities and to limit our net liability for individual risks. The estimated reinsurance recoverable on paid losses, including an estimate for losses incurred but not reported, and amounts paid to reinsurers applicable to unexpired terms of policies in force are reported as assets.

A reinsurance arrangement does not discharge the issuing company from primary liability to the insured, and the issuing company is required to discharge its liability to the insured even if the reinsurer is unable to meet its obligations under the reinsurance arrangements. Reinsurance, however, does make the reinsurer liable to the issuing company to the extent of any reinsurance in force at the time of the loss. Reinsurance arrangements also decrease premiums retained by the issuing company since that company pays the reinsuring company a portion of total premiums based upon the amount of liability reinsured.

When a claim is made under a policy we have reinsured, we initially pay the full amount owed to the policyholder or claimant. Subsequently, we initiate the process to recover any amounts due from reinsurers in accordance with the terms of applicable reinsurance treaties. The estimated recoverable is recorded as an asset on the financial statements.

At December 31, 2007, the estimated reinsurance recoverable recorded was \$917,000. The Company does not anticipate any issues with collection of the recorded amount.

The reinsurance related amounts recorded have been estimated based upon management's interpretation of the related reinsurance treaty. Areas in which judgment has been used regarding said estimates include: assessing the financial viability and credit quality of each reinsurer as well as the ability of each reinsurer to pay amounts owed.

There is a possibility that the actual amounts recovered from reinsurers could be materially less than the estimates recorded. This possibility could result in a material adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations. Reinsurers may dispute claims under reinsurance treaties, such as the calculated amount of reinsurance recoverable. Management does not anticipate any issues with recoverability of reinsurance balances based on current evaluations of collectability.

NSIC generally reinsures all risks in excess of \$50,000 with respect to any one insured.

NSFC and Omega generally reinsure with third parties any liability in excess of \$225,000 on any single policy. In addition, the property and casualty subsidiaries have catastrophe excess reinsurance, which protects it in part with respect to aggregate property losses arising out of a single catastrophe, such as a hurricane. In 2007, the property and casualty subsidiaries had catastrophe protection up to a \$47.5 million loss with a retention/deductible of \$3.5 million. This provided protection up to at least a 100 year "near term" event as depicted in catastrophe modeling results. The "near term" catastrophe modeling results reflect a predicted increase in storm activity given the current weather pattern and various factors projected to impact our weather patterns in the near term. We believe that maintaining protection to at least a 100 year near term event will be comparable with our past practice of maintaining catastrophe reinsurance protection up to a 250 year event under the previous models. Based on an evaluation using actual NSFC and Omega exposures and catastrophe modeling based on a 100 year loss, that is a probable maximum loss in which we have a 99% probability of not exceeding in any given year, the property and casualty subsidiaries would pay (pre-tax) approximately \$8.7 million in losses and reinstatement and reinsurers would pay (pre-tax) \$42.3 million. No significant changes in reinsurance coverage are expected during 2008. However, we will continue to evaluate the cost of expanding the upper limits of our coverage with a goal of lowering our value at risk related to probable maximum losses as upper limit coverage becomes more cost effective.

For more information regarding reinsurance, please see Note 10 to our consolidated financial statements.

*Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs*

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Deferred policy acquisition costs (DAC) are those costs incurred in connection with acquiring new business or renewing existing business. DAC is primarily comprised of commissions and other costs related to issuing insurance policies, net of amounts ceded to reinsurers. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, these costs are not expensed in their entirety, rather they are recorded as an asset and amortized over the lives of the policies.

A reduction in DAC is recognized if the sum of the expected loss and loss adjustment expenses, unamortized acquisition costs, and maintenance costs exceeds related unearned premiums and projected investment income. Management reviews DAC calculations throughout the year to establish and assess their recoverability. Changes in management's assumptions, estimates or judgment with respect to calculating DAC could materially impact our financial statements and financial condition. Changes in loss ratios, projected investment income, premium rates or overall expense levels could negatively impact the recoverability of DAC.

At December 31, 2007, we had recorded \$8,993,000 as an asset for DAC in our financial statements. We do not foresee any issues related to recoverability of these capitalized costs. For more information regarding deferred policy acquisition costs, please see Note 1 to our financial statements.

*Deferred Income Taxes*

Deferred income taxes are created when there are differences between assets and liabilities for tax and financial reporting purposes, as well as tax credits, net operating losses and other carry forwards. SFAS 109 "Accounting for Income Taxes," requires that deferred tax assets be reduced by a valuation allowance if, based on the available evidence, it is more likely than not that all of the recorded deferred tax assets will not be realized in future periods. This standard requires management to exercise judgment in determining whether or not the deferred tax asset is realizable.

At December 31, 2007, there is no evidence to suggest to management that any deferred tax asset is unrealizable. For more information regarding deferred income taxes, please see Note 7 to our financial statements.

*Valuation of Investments*

Investments are recorded at fair value based upon quoted prices when available. Quoted prices are available for every investment debt and equity security included in the financial statements. Periodically, the carrying values of an individual investment may become temporarily impaired because of time value, volatility, credit quality and existing market conditions. Management evaluates investments to determine whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. Evaluation criteria include credit quality of security, severity of decrease between cost and market value, length of time of the impairment and likelihood that the impairment will reverse in the near future. This evaluation requires significant assumptions, estimates and judgments by management. If the impairment is determined to be other-than-temporary, the investment is written down to the current fair value and a realized loss is recorded on the income statement. We have very limited exposure to less liquid and difficult to value investments such as collateralized debt obligations and private label mortgage backed securities.

At December 31, 2007, there were no other-than-temporary impairments. For more information regarding valuation of investments, see Note 1 to our financial statements.

*Loss and Loss Adjustment Expense*

Property and casualty loss reserves are maintained to cover the estimated unpaid liability for losses and loss adjustment expenses with respect to reported and unreported incurred claims. Loss reserves are an estimation based on actuarial projection techniques common in the insurance industry. Reserves are management's expectations of what the settlement and administration of claims will cost. Management estimated reserves are based on historical settlement patterns, estimated salvage and subrogation, and an appraisal of the related facts and circumstances. Management's reserve estimates are reviewed by consulting actuaries to determine their adequacy and reasonableness.

## Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

At December 31, 2007, the recorded liability for loss and loss and adjustment expense was \$11,973,000. We believe this estimate of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expense to be sufficient based on currently available information and a review of our historical reserving practices. For more information regarding loss and loss adjustment expense, see Note 9 to our financial statements.

### **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

The Company's primary objectives in managing its investment portfolio are to maximize investment income and total investment returns while minimizing overall credit risk. Investment strategies are developed based on many factors including changes in interest rates, overall market conditions, underwriting results, regulatory requirements and tax position. Investment decisions are made by management and reviewed by the Board of Directors. Market risk represents the potential for loss due to adverse changes in fair value of securities. The three potential risks related to the Company's fixed maturity portfolio are interest rate risk, prepayment risk and default risk. The primary risk related to the Company's equity portfolio is equity price risk.

Since the Company's assets and liabilities are largely monetary in nature, the Company's financial position and earnings are subject to risks resulting from changes in interest rates at varying maturities, changes in spreads over U.S. Treasuries on new investment opportunities and changes in the yield curve and equity pricing risks.

The Company is exposed to equity price risk on its equity securities. The Company holds common stock with a fair value of \$15 million. Based on an evaluation of the historical risk measure of our portfolio relative to the S&P 500, if the market value of the S & P 500 Index decreased 10% from its December 31, 2007 value, the fair value of the Company's common stock would decrease by approximately \$1.34 million.

Certain fixed interest rate market risk sensitive instruments may not give rise to incremental income or loss during the period illustrated but may be subject to changes in fair values. Note 1 in the consolidated financial statements presents additional disclosures concerning fair values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities and is incorporated by reference herein.

The Company limits the extent of its market risk by purchasing securities that are backed by stable collateral, the majority of the assets are issued by U.S. government sponsored entities. Also, the majority of all of the subsidiaries' CMO's are Planned Amortization Class (PAC) bonds. PAC bonds are typically the lowest risk CMO's, and provide greater cash flow predictability. Such securities with reduced risk typically have a lower yield, but higher liquidity, than higher-risk mortgage backed bonds. To reduce the risk of losing principal should prepayments exceed expectations, the Company does not purchase mortgage backed securities at significant premiums over par value.

The Company's investment approach in the equity markets is based primarily on a fundamental analysis of value. This approach requires the investment committee to invest in well managed, primarily dividend paying companies, which have a low debt to capital ratio, above average return on capital for a sustained period of time, and low volatility rating (beta) relative to the market. The dividends provide a steady cash flow to help pay current claim liabilities, and it has been the Company's experience that by following this investment strategy, long term investment results have been superior to those offered by bonds, while keeping the risk of loss of capital to a minimum relative to the overall equity market.

As for shifts in investment allocations, the company has moderately increased allocations to corporate and tax free bonds. The improved yield spreads on corporate bonds has made this segment more attractive and the risk of investing in corporate bonds versus government bonds is more appropriately priced in our opinion. We have also increased our allocation to tax free securities to further enhance after tax returns given our improved earnings performance over the last two years.



**Item 8. Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

Index to Financial Statements	
Consolidated Financial Statements:	
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	38
Consolidated Balance Sheets –	
December 31, 2007 and 2006	39
Consolidated Statements of Income –	
Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	41
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity –	
Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	42
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows –	
Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	43
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements –	
December 31, 2007	44
Financial Statement Schedules:	
Schedule I. Summary of Investments –	
December 31, 2007 and 2006	67
Schedule II. Condensed Financial Information of Registrant –	
December 31, 2007 and 2006	68
Schedule III. Supplementary Insurance Information –	
December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	72
Schedule IV. Reinsurance –	
Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	73
Schedule V. Allowance for Uncollected Premiums and Other Receivables –	
Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005	74
<i>All other Schedules are not required under related instructions or are inapplicable and therefore have been omitted.</i>	





REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders

The National Security Group, Inc.

Elba, Alabama

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of The National Security Group, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007. Our audits also included the financial statement schedules listed in the Index at page 37. These consolidated financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. The company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The National Security Group, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

/s/ Barfield, Murphy, Shank & Smith, P.C.

Birmingham, Alabama

March 28, 2008



**The National Security Group, Inc.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	(Dollars in thousands)	
	December 31,	
<b>ASSETS</b>	2007	2006
<b>Investments</b>		
Fixed maturities held-to-maturity, at amortized cost (estimated fair value: 2007 - \$17,155; 2006 - \$18,172)	\$ 17,310	\$ 18,764
Fixed maturities available-for-sale, at estimated fair value (cost: 2007 - \$67,388; 2006 - \$62,980)	66,777	61,935
Equity securities available-for-sale, at estimated fair value (cost: 2007 - \$7,635 2006 - \$7,224)	14,991	16,119
Mortgage loans on real estate, at cost	492	504
Investment real estate, at book value (accumulated depreciation: 2007 - \$18; 2006 - \$18)	4,586	4,154
Policy loans	920	845
Other invested assets	2,103	2,346
Short-term investments	1,027	508
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>108,206</b>	<b>105,175</b>
Cash	3,299	1,106
Accrued investment income	794	786
Policy receivables, less allowance for credit losses (2007 - \$110; 2006 - \$110)	8,801	3,098
Accounts receivable, less allowance for credit losses (2007 - \$0; 2006 - \$10)	570	2,047
Inventory	-	447
Reinsurance recoverable	917	2,242
Deferred policy acquisition costs	8,993	7,922
Property and equipment, net	2,930	11,242
Other assets	1,075	846
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 135,585</b>	<b>\$ 134,911</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements



**The National Security Group, Inc.**

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	(Dollars in thousands)	
	December 31,	
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	2007	2006
Property and casualty benefit and loss reserves	\$ 11,973	\$ 12,498
Accident and health benefit and loss reserves	926	824
Life and annuity benefit and loss reserves	27,538	26,265
Unearned premiums	22,442	17,818
Policy and contract claims	608	412
Other policyholder funds	1,309	1,275
Short-term debt	900	11,580
Long-term debt	12,372	9,279
Accrued income taxes	1,079	1,205
Other liabilities	6,760	5,645
Deferred income tax	1,231	2,031
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>87,138</b>	<b>88,832</b>
Contingencies	-	-
Minority interest	-	700
Shareholders' Equity		
Preferred stock, \$1 par value, 500,000 shares authorized, none issued or outstanding	-	-
Class A common stock, \$1 par value, 2,000,000 shares authorized, none issued or outstanding	-	-
Common stock, \$1 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized		
2,466,600 shares issued and outstanding	2,467	2,467
Additional paid-in capital	4,951	4,951
Accumulated other comprehensive income	4,864	5,616
Retained earnings	36,165	32,345
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>48,447</b>	<b>45,379</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 135,585</b>	<b>\$ 134,911</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements



**The National Security Group, Inc.**

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	(Dollars in thousands except per share amounts)		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2007	2006	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Net premiums earned	\$ 62,250	\$ 58,874	\$ 53,563
Net investment income	4,749	4,463	3,964
Net realized investment gains	1,493	2,565	3,493
Other income	1,071	1,211	1,416
	69,563	67,113	62,436
<b>BENEFITS AND EXPENSES</b>			
Policyholder benefits paid or provided	37,678	37,996	38,241
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	2,559	1,978	2,704
Commissions	9,353	8,921	8,987
General and administrative expenses	9,679	9,141	7,911
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	2,325	1,729	2,243
Interest expense	1,080	1,094	348
	62,674	60,859	60,434
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>			
<b>Before Income Tax Expense</b>	6,889	6,254	2,002
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE (BENEFIT)</b>			
Current	1,811	1,907	531
Deferred	357	(92)	50
	2,168	1,815	581
<b>Income From Continuing Operations</b>	4,721	4,439	1,421
(Loss) Income from Discontinued Operations, Net of Income Tax			
Expense Before Minority Interest	(282)	(378)	274
Minority Interest in Discontinued Operations	141	189	(137)
Gain from Disposal of Discontinued Operations	1,460	-	-
<b>Net Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations</b>	1,319	(189)	137

Edgar Filing: NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP INC - Form 10-K

<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 6,040	\$ 4,250	\$ 1,558
<b>Basic and Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share:</b>			
Earnings Per Share from Continuing Operations	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.80	\$ 0.58
Earnings (Loss) Per share from Discontinued Operations	0.54	(0.08)	0.05
<b>Net Earnings Per Common Share</b>	<b>\$ 2.45</b>	<b>\$ 1.72</b>	<b>\$ 0.63</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

41

---

**THE NATIONAL SECURITY GROUP, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**  
(Dollars in thousands)

	Total	Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Common Stock	Paid-in Capital
Balance at December 31, 2004	\$ 46,676		\$ 30,854	\$ 8,404	\$ 2,467	\$ 4,951
Comprehensive loss:						
Net income for 2005	1,558	1,558	1,558	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax						
Unrealized loss on securities, net of reclassification adjustment of \$2,504	(2,544)	(2,544)	-	(2,544)	-	-
Comprehensive loss		(986)				
Cash dividends (\$0.865 per share)	(2,134)		(2,134)	-	-	-
Balance at December 31, 2005	43,556		30,278	5,860	2,467	4,951
Comprehensive income:						
Net income for 2006	4,250	4,250	4,250	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax						
Unrealized loss on securities, net of reclassification adjustment of \$1,845	(244)	(244)	-	(244)	-	-
Comprehensive income		4,006				
Cash dividends (\$0.885 per share)	(2,183)		(2,183)	-	-	-
Balance at December 31, 2006	45,379		32,345	5,616	2,467	4,951
Comprehensive income:						
Net income for 2007	6,040	6,040	6,040	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax						
Unrealized loss on securities, net						