



FirstNet™



Public Safety Advisory Committee

WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY (FIRSTNET)?

Signed into law on February 22, 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The law gives FirstNet the mission to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety data communications.

FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet is governed by a 15-member Board consisting of the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and 12 members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The FirstNet Board is composed of representatives from public safety; local, state and federal government; and the wireless industry.¹

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)?

Consistent with requisites of the statute, FirstNet was required to establish a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). FirstNet established the PSAC consisting of 40 members who represent public safety organizations² from all disciplines of public safety as well as State, territorial, tribal, and local governments. There are also at-large members and a Federal member. The mission of the PSAC is to assist FirstNet in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Specifically, the PSAC:

- Offers FirstNet guidance, information, and subject matter expertise, from a public safety perspective, to ensure that needs, requirements, and operational constructs necessary for critical public safety capabilities are included in the envisioned network
- Provides subject matter expertise on concepts (e.g., policies, procedures, technologies, operational methods) developed by FirstNet
- Advises FirstNet through creating concept documents or recommendation reports related to the build out, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN)
- Conducts regular meetings to remain informed and up to date on FirstNet's progress

¹For additional information on FirstNet, see The Promise of FirstNet Fact Sheet and The Process for Working with FirstNet Fact Sheet

²PSAC webpage: <http://firstnet.gov/about/public-safety-advisory-committee>

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A PSAC MEMBER?

PSAC members represent key stakeholder groups. PSAC members serve on a voluntary basis and may be asked to participate in subcommittees and working groups to contribute to concept documents and recommendation reports based on their experience and expertise. Participation in the PSAC is critical to assist FirstNet with the establishment of the NPSBN. PSAC members are expected to attend meetings that are held virtually (e.g., teleconference, webinar) and in person meetings two or three times a year. Members are expected to keep their stakeholder groups informed and updated on PSAC activities that help to address the need to develop better technologies and processes for the multi-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PSAC EFFORTS?

Participation as subject matter experts on subcommittees and working groups will be topic specific and will continue until final reports or recommendations are accepted for presentation to FirstNet by the PSAC Executive Committee. Current ongoing efforts include:

- **Human Factors:** PSAC was asked by FirstNet to analyze the long range impacts of the NPSBN on the manner law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public safety communications centers operate and how they may be better served in addressing their duties once the network is built and operating. This task looks to answer several questions including:
 - What are the human elements and ergonomic factors that FirstNet needs to consider when designing the network and defining capabilities of user applications and devices?
 - What are potential user issues that will arise when using the NPSBN?
 - How will the NPSBN be used by first responders and how will it impact operations and the delivery of critical public safety services?

The FirstNet Board passed a [resolution](#) to accept the [report](#) on March 11, 2014.

- **Application / Use Cases:** The PSAC is developing use cases to illustrate how the envisioned technology, network, and applications will support the incident response by discipline (e.g., emergency medical services, fire, law enforcement)
- **Eligible Users:** The PSAC was asked by FirstNet to develop a list of eligible users of the NPSBN and definitions.
- **Tribal Outreach, Education, and Consultation Strategies:** FirstNet requested the PSAC establish a Tribal Working Group to provide FirstNet advice on tribal outreach, education, and inclusive consultation strategies to ensure full participation by tribal jurisdictions in the NPSBN.
- **Early Builder Strategies and Lessons Learned:** FirstNet requested the PSAC establish an Early Builder Working Group comprised of Adams County, Colorado; Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), California; Harris County, Texas; New Mexico and New Jersey to provide FirstNet with early builder strategies and lessons learned that will assist in planning efforts for the NPSBN.

For questions on the PSAC and its activities, please contact PSAC@hq.dhs.gov.

FirstNet Board

Chair Sue Swenson
Vice Chair Jeff Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security (Designee Suzanne Spaulding)
U.S. Attorney General (Designee Ron Davis)
Director of the Office of Management & Budget (Designee Geovette Washington)
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Annise Parker, Frank Plastina, Ed Reynolds, Rich Stanek, Teri Takai

07/16/2015

FirstNet Staff

Deputy Executive Director
TJ Kennedy

PSAC Executive Committee

PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)
PSAC Vice-Chair Niles Ford (Fire Service-Metro Chiefs)
PSAC Vice-Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NAEMSO)
PSAC Vice-Chair VACANT (State)
PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

Public Safety Advisory Committee (40 Members)

Tribal Working Group

EC Liaison Paul Patrick
Richard D. Broncheau **CHAIR**
VICE CHAIR
Members

Early Builder Working Group

EC Liaison Tom Sorley
New Mexico (NM)-Darryl Ackley **CHAIR**
Texas (TX)-Todd Early-**VICE CHAIR**
Adams County (CO)-Scott Lane
Los Angeles-Rics (CA)-Pat Mallon
New Jersey (NJ)-Fred Scalera

Public Safety Grade Task Team

Chris Lombard, **CHAIR**
Dan Eaton
Trey Forgety
Barry Fraser
Brent Lee
Gary McCarraher
Harlin McEwen
Jonathan Olson
Charlie Sasser
Tom Sorley
John Sweeney
Michael Varney
Mike Worrell

Priority and Preemption Task Team

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Brent Lee
Chris Lombard
Mel Maier
Phil Mann
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Harlin McEwen
Mark Ryckman
Tom Sorley
Michael Varney
Mike Worrell



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PSAC Executive Committee

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07/ /2015

1. AASHTO American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials Paul J. Steinman
2. APCO Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International Brent Lee
3. APWA American Public Works Association..... Philip R. Mann
4. FCCA..... Forestry Conservation Communications Association..... Chief Paul M. Leary
5. GHSAC Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council Guy Cameron
6. IAB Interagency Board Captain Christopher Lombard
7. IACP International Association of Chiefs of Police..... Chief Harlin McEwen
8. IAEM International Association of Emergency Managers..... Joseph R. Sastre
9. IAFC International Association of Fire Chiefs Chief Gary McCarraher
10. ICMA..... International City/County Management Association Mark L. Ryckman
11. IMSA..... International Municipal Signal Association Paul Szoc
12. MCC..... Major Cities (Police) Chiefs Association Scott Edson
13. MCSA Major County Sheriffs' Association Mel Maier
14. Metro Chiefs.... Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Chief Niles Ford
15. NACo National Association of Counties Len Humphries
16. NAEMT National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians Don Lundy
17. NARC National Association of Regional Councils..... Steve Cassano
18. NASCIO National Association of State Chief Information Officers..... Darryl Ackley
19. NASEMSO National Association of State EMS Officials Paul R. Patrick
20. NASNA National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators..... Richard Taylor
21. NASTD National Association of State Technology Directors..... Charlie Sasser
22. NATOA National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors Barry Fraser
23. NCAI National Congress of American Indians Richard D. Broncheau
24. NCJA National Criminal Justice Association John M. Sweeney
25. NCSL..... National Conference of State Legislatures Daniel A. Eaton
26. NCSWIC National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators..... Michael Varney
27. NEMA National Emergency Management Association..... Jeff Stern
28. NEMSMA..... National EMS Management Association Jonathan Olson
29. NENA National Emergency Number Association Trey Forgety
30. NGA National Governors Association..... Jimmy Gianato
31. NLC National League of Cities Tony Anderson
32. NPSTC..... National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Chief Douglas Aiken
33. NSA National Sheriffs' Association..... Sheriff Larry D. Amerson
34. SEARCH National Consortium of Justice Information Statistics Michael Jacobson
35. USCM U.S. Conference of Mayors Tom Sorley
36. At Large SAFECOM EC Steven H. Proctor
37. At Large Fire Non-Management First Line Responder..... Captain Mike Worrell
38. At Large Police Non-Management First Line Responder..... Rory Neslund
39. At Large Police Non-Management First Line Responder..... James N. Mann
40. Federal..... FirstNet Vicki Lee