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 (Act)** created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The law gives FirstNet the mission to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of 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.

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)?

Under the Act, FirstNet was required to establish a **Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC).** In 2013, FirstNet established the PSAC consisting of 40 members who represent organizations 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 to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) in matters involving shared intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. 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, etc.) developed by FirstNet
- Conducts regular meetings to remain informed and up to date on FirstNet's progress

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 task teams 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, at a minimum, to attend two webinars and two in-person meetings per year. In addition to these four core PSAC meetings, there are also working group and task team in-person meetings and conference calls. 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 task teams and working groups is topic specific and continues until final reports or recommendations have been submitted to FirstNet by the PSAC Chair after receiving input/feedback from the full committee. Current ongoing efforts include:

Task Teams

Priority and Preemption: FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC regarding an initial framework for implementing access prioritization, user preemption, and prioritized application use on the NPSBN.

Public Safety Grade: FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC regarding an initial methodology and framework for prioritizing and implementing public safety grade hardening recommendations for the NPSBN.

User Equipment: FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC on functional objectives for and ergonomic considerations of Band 14 broadband user equipment that will meet the operational needs of first responders.

Working Groups

Tribal Outreach, Education, and Consultation Strategies: A Tribal Working Group (TWG) comprised of representatives from a broad cross section of multi-tribal associations was established to provide FirstNet advice on tribal outreach, education, and inclusive consultation strategies to ensure participation by tribal jurisdictions in planning for the NPSBN.

Early Builder Strategies and Lessons Learned: An Early Builder Working Group (EBWG) comprised of representatives from Adams County, Colorado; Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), California; Harris County, Texas; New Mexico; and New Jersey was established to provide FirstNet with early builder strategies and lessons learned that will assist in planning efforts for the NPSBN.

WHAT ASSIGNMENTS HAVE THE PSAC COMPLETED?

Human Factors: The PSAC analyzed 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. The Human Factors Report, submitted in November 2013, is available on the **FirstNet website**.

Application / Use Cases: The PSAC developed 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). These use cases, available on the FirstNet website, were incorporated into design modeling efforts conducted by the FirstNet technical staff.

Eligible Users: The PSAC developed a list of proposed eligible users of the NPSBN and related definitions, which was used to inform the public notices FirstNet released related to the definition and scope of public safety entities qualifying for use of the NPSBN.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE PSAC?

For questions on the PSAC and its activities, please contact PSAC@firstnet.gov or visit the PSAC webpage.

07/30/2015

FirstNet Board

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Vice Chair Jeff Johnson
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PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)
PSAC Vice-Chair Niles Ford (Fire Service-Metro Chiefs)
PSAC Vice-Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NASEMSO)
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

Barry Fraser, **CHAIR**
Trey Forgety
Brent Lee
Chris Lombard
Mel Maier
Phil Mann
Gary McCarraher
Harlin McEwen
Mark Ryckman
Tom Sorley
Michael Varney
Mike Worrell

Public Safety Advisory Committee

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PSAC Vice-Chair VACANT (State)
PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

07/30/2015

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	Div. Chief 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