# 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.

FirstNet®

*11/13/2015*

# FirstNet Board

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Vice Chair Jeff Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security (Designee Suzanne Spaulding)
U.S. Attorney General (Designee Ron Davis)
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## FirstNet Staff

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## PSAC Executive Committee

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 Jimmy Gianato (State-NGA)
PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

## Public Safety Advisory Committee

(40 Members)

## Tribal Working Group

**EC Liaison Paul Patrick Richard D. Broncheau,** CHAIR
**Michael Bird**, Kewa Pueblo
**Robert DesRosier**, Blackfeet
**Harrell French**, United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)
**Gerad Godfrey,** Alutiiq
**Randell Harris,** Tlingit
**Heather Hudson,** Alaska Inter-tribal Council (AITC)
**Michael Lasiner,** Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council (NWTEMC)
**Patrick Melvin,** International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)—Indian Country Law Enforcement Section (ICLES)
**Mark Openshaw,** National Native American Fire Chiefs Association (NNAFCA)
**J. Scott Stewart**, Tanana Chiefs Conference

## 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

## 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

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**PSAC Executive Committee**

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*11/13/2015*

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | Lloyd Mitchell |
| 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 | Chief 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 | Todd Early |
| 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. | Nlets | The International Justice and Public Safety Network | Steve Correll |
| 33. | NPSTC | National Public Safety Telecommunications Council | Chief Douglas Aiken |
| 34. | NSA | National Sheriffs' Association | Sheriff Larry D. Amerson |
| 35. | NVFC | National Volunteer Fire Council | Chief C. Reid Vaughan |
| 36. | SEARCH | National Consortium of Justice Information Statistics | Michael Jacobson |
| 37. | USCM | U.S. Conference of Mayors | Tom Sorley |
| 38. | At Large | SAFECOM EC | Steven H. Proctor |
| 39. | At Large | Fire Non-Management First Line Responder | Vacant |
| 40. | At Large | Police Non-Management First Line Responder | Vacant |
| 41. | At Large | Police Non-Management First Line Responder | James N. Mann |
| 42. | Federal | FirstNet | Vicki Lee |