



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](#).

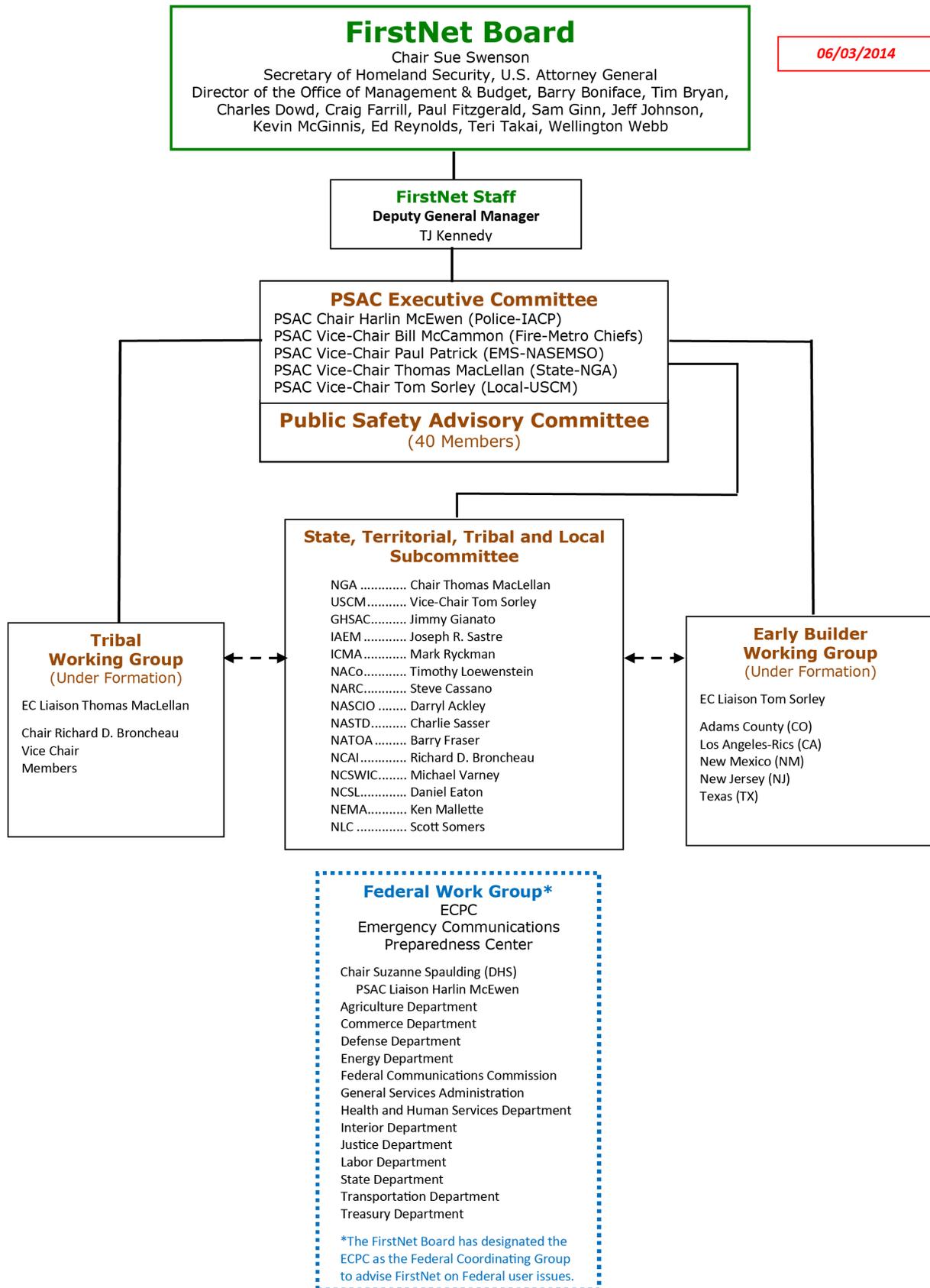
Application / Use Cases: The PSAC developed use cases to illustrate how the envisioned technology, network, and applications will support the incident response by discipline (e.g., emergency medical services, fire, law enforcement). These use cases, available on the FirstNet website, were incorporated 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.

06/03/2014





Public Safety Advisory Committee

PSAC Executive Committee

PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)
 PSAC Vice-Chair Bill McCammon (Fire-Metro Chiefs)
 PSAC Vice-Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NAEMSO)
 PSAC Vice-Chair Thomas MacLellan (State-NGA)
 PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

06/03/2014

1. AASHTO American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials Paul J. Steinman
2. APCO Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International Terry Hall
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 Jimmy J. Gianato
6. IAB Interagency Board Lt. 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 Pat Neville
13. MCSA Major County Sheriffs' Association Mel Maier
14. Metro Chiefs... Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Chief Bill McCammon
15. NACo National Association of Counties Timothy Loewenstein
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. NAEMSO 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 Ken Mallette
28. NEMSMA National EMS Management Association Jonathan Olson
29. NENA National Emergency Number Association Trey Forgety
30. NGA National Governors Association Thomas MacLellan
31. NLC National League of Cities Scott Somers
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 Bonnie B. Maney
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 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