



FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY



ON MY MIND

It's hard to believe that just one year ago, we closed out "opt-in" season, with 56 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia opting in to FirstNet. When I reflect on what FirstNet and the First Responder Network Authority have accomplished in 2018, it makes me proud to serve the public safety community as part of FirstNet and enthusiastic for the year ahead. A few highlights of 2018 for me:

**Harry Markley** Since the launch of FirstNet service, 3,600 public safety agencies nationwide have chosen to improve communications for first responders by joining FirstNet -- and we expect that number to continue to grow in the coming months. Our app and device ecosystems continue to grow, with several dozen public safety apps in the [App Catalog](#), and more than [60 devices](#) reviewed and available for use on FirstNet.

Over the last year, first responders experienced FirstNet in action during large events like New Mexico's Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and the Boston Marathon. Events like these draw large crowds that cause network congestion, but FirstNet makes it possible for responders at these events to communicate seamlessly and securely.

In March, the First Responder Network Authority gave AT&T, our network contractor, the green light to expand FirstNet's footprint by making available Band 14, public safety's dedicated spectrum. With Band 14, FirstNet is giving first responders access to additional capacity and expanded nationwide coverage whenever and wherever they need it.

Also in March, we launched the FirstNet network Core -- the first-ever nationwide LTE enhanced packet core infrastructure built specifically for our nation's first responder community. The FirstNet Core is the brain and nervous system of the nationwide network, separating public safety traffic from commercial traffic and supporting current FirstNet functions, like Quality of Service (QoS), priority and preemption. It will also support future mission-critical services to be offered by FirstNet, like mission critical push-to-talk and location-based services.

In October, FirstNet subscribers gained access to a lending library of 72 dedicated deployable network assets. The deployables are stationed around the country to provide backup in disasters or for large events, and they are available within hours at no extra costs to public safety subscribers. Imagine the impact that can have in maintaining communications in hurricanes and wildfires, search and rescue missions, or containing gas leaks and explosions.

Also in October, I attended IACP's Annual Conference and Exposition in Orlando. Throughout the event, my colleagues and I had the opportunity to moderate and be a part of discussions that ranged from public safety's use of mobile data and devices to new applications that benefit the law enforcement community. IACP is always a wonderful occasion to hear from leaders and discuss changes and challenges from officers and how FirstNet can help fill those gaps. I am already looking forward to attending next year.

In my last email to you, we shared the news of the appointment of **Edward Horowitz** to FirstNet Board Chair. I had the opportunity to introduce him to the leadership of some of the major law enforcement organizations, including IACP, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). I look forward to introducing him to you through additional engagements in the new year.

2018 was a great year for FirstNet and for public safety. I wish you all a happy holiday season, and look forward to working with you next year.

*Harry Markley is Senior Law Enforcement Advisor, First Responder Network Authority.*

**WISHING PUBLIC SAFETY SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



**WHAT'S NEW AT FIRSTNET**

**FirstNet Quarterly Board Meeting**

On Dec. 13, the FirstNet Board met in Tysons, VA, for its Quarterly Board Meeting. During the meeting, the Board:

- Welcomed new Board Chair **Edward Horowitz**, Vice Chair **Richard Stanek**, five new Board Members and PSAC Chair **Todd Early**
- Heard updates from First Responder Network Authority Leadership and the Board Committees, including a recap of 2018 and a look ahead at 2019
- Voted on resolutions to thank outgoing Board members
- Held an annual Board Committee performance evaluations and charter reviews
- Received updates from the PSAC and AT&T
- Provided CEO and strategy updates, including a discussion of the goal, mission, vision and objectives of the FirstNet Strategic Plan.

A [press release](#) and [webcast of the meeting](#) are available on [FirstNet.gov](#).

**Popular Science Magazine names FirstNet Best of What's New for 2018**



In its Nov. 27 issue, *Popular Science Magazine* noted that ambulances, fire trucks, and police cruisers can turn on their sirens to cut through traffic in an emergency, but the first responders' phones can still get jammed up. A FirstNet SIM card gives them the equivalent of flashing lights on a mobile network. [Read the article.](#)

**Smart Cities Dive names FirstNet 2018 Technology of the Year**



**DIVE AWARDS**

**Technology of the Year: FirstNet**

*Smart Cities Dive* named FirstNet 2018's Technology of the Year. The award recognizes the top disruptors and innovators in smart cities, including leaders, groups and companies that are transforming urban life and shaping the future. [Read more.](#)

**It's coming: Mission-Critical Push to Talk**

By the second half of 2019, [AT&T plans to have its solutions fully compliant](#) with 3GPP Mission-Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT) standards. Push-to-Talk (PTT) applications are another tool in public safety's tool box. Read more about [how first responders are using FirstNet with PTT capabilities](#) at large events like the Boston Marathon.

**WORTH A LOOK/LISTEN**

**Public Safety First podcast: Drones and situational awareness**

In episode 13 of our *Public Safety First* podcast, host **Dave Buchanan** talks with Santa Rosa Police Captain **Craig Schwartz**.

They discuss how drones will help provide better situational awareness to the law enforcement community and other public safety professionals -- especially for search and rescue missions.

Catch up on this or podcasts on [iTunes](#), [YouTube](#) or [SoundCloud](#).



**Maryland celebrates one year with FirstNet**

It's been one year since Maryland opted in to FirstNet. Maryland Lieutenant Governor **Boyd Rutherford** highlights how FirstNet has affected the public safety community at a forum he led in October 2018. [Listen to his remarks.](#)

[Also read](#) about Washington County, Md., Sheriff **Doug Mullendore's** experience with FirstNet during the severe flooding that affected his jurisdiction in Spring 2018.



**LET'S CATCH UP**

My travels this year took me all over the United States from Alaska to Biloxi, MS, and everywhere in between to meet with you, discuss your issues, and represent your needs related to public safety communications technology. In the coming year, I look forward to continuing my travels to meet you and be your voice in this process. Look for me at:

- [CES 2019 in Las Vegas, Jan. 8-11](#)
- [IACP Technology Conference, Jacksonville, FL, May 20-22](#)

As the FirstNet Law Enforcement Senior Advisor representing you, if you have any large-scale events, law enforcement conferences or special needs, contact me at [Harry.Markley@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Harry.Markley@FirstNet.gov). For updates, make sure to visit [FirstNet.gov](#) and our social channels (click the icons below) regularly.

Enjoy safe and happy holidays. See you in the New Year!

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