

**National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)**  
**Meeting by Teleconference**  
**January 10, 2019 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET**

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**Welcome and Opening, Doug Aiken, NPSTC Vice Chair.** Mr. Aiken called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. ET. He thanked the attendees for taking the time to join the call. He welcomed two new alternates to the Board: Brandon Allen, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and Jeffrey Knight, International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA). He expressed his appreciation to Jim Goldstein, former IAFC representative, who is continuing to support the T-Band Coalition, 4.9 GHz, and 9-1-1 location in his retirement. Participants were asked to send a record of their attendance to [Attend@npstc.org](mailto:Attend@npstc.org).

**Federal Partners Update**

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Missions and Capabilities Support, Sridhar Kowdley, Program Manager.** Due to the lapse in federal funding, there were no presentations from NPSTC's federal partners.

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), Dusty Rhoads, Chief of the Public Safety and National Security Emergency Preparedness Communications (ECD) Governance Branch.** Due to the lapse in federal funding, there were no presentations from NPSTC's federal partners.

**Spectrum Management Committee Update, Don Root, Chair, and Charlie Sasser, Vice Chair**

**6 MHz:** Mr. Root discussed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that proposes to allow unlicensed devices in the 6 GHz microwave band by automated spectrum sharing. Fortunately, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposes to protect current and future microwave links in the band. Comments are due February 15, 2019, and reply comments on March 18, 2019. Dave Buchanan has volunteered to lead an approach to this issue. The Spectrum Committee held three dedicated calls to gather input for comments on November 30, December 14, and January 4. The Committee plans to provide draft comments to the Governing Board by January 25, 2019, and anticipates the need to also develop reply comments.

**Enforcement Actions:** In 2015, NPSTC alerted the FCC on growing RF interference problem from energy efficient lighting. From March to November, 2018, the FCC issued 21 settlement agreements and \$850,000 in penalties involving non-compliant LED signs. In other news, the FCC is nearing completion of a new web portal for interference reporting. Interference to public safety gets higher priority treatment. NPSTC helped test the portal in December, which is expected to go live soon.

Mr. Sasser presented NPSTC's FCC filings made in 2018, providing background on Kari's Law and the implications for reliable dispatchable location accuracy. He also discussed the comments and reply comments submitted on the 4.9 GHz Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM). The complete filings can be found on NPSTC's website.

Date Filed	Topic	Type of Filing
12/10/18	Kari's Law NPRM	Comments
11/06/18	Metrom Rail Waiver Request	Comments
10/01/18	Z-Axis Accuracy PN	Comments
9/11/18	Spectrum Pipeline PN	Comments
8/6/18	4.9 GHz Sixth FNPRM	Reply Comments
7/30/18	Radwin Petition on 5 GHz Rules	Comments
7/6/18	4.9 GHz Sixth FNPRM	Comments
7/6/18	Globalstar Petition re Noise Floor	Comments
6/20/18	New Technology/Services NPRM	Reply Comments
3/12/18	Medical Device Waiver Request	Comments
1/31/18	TAC Spectrum Policy Rec.	Comments
Ongoing	Work on T-Band	Coalition Support

### FirstNet NPSBN Development

**FirstNet, Paul Patrick, Board Member.** Mr. Patrick reported on his new role as a FirstNet Board member. The number of public safety connections is up 60 percent since last October, with 425,000 connections at more than 5,250 public safety agencies on the FirstNet system across the nation. Under the guidance of the Chair, Ed Horowitz, the Board recently discussed work planned for 2019. FirstNet has not been directly impacted by the current federal furloughs. The PSAC continues gathering data, discussing and disseminating information from FirstNet users, both positive and negative. Evolving technology will guide investment dollars in the network. Mr. Patrick encouraged public safety to follow the FirstNet website, podcast, and blog. The most recent podcast features Chief Harlin McEwen (ret.) discussing the history of the development of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and the First Network Authority.

**FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Todd Early, Chair.** Mr. Early expressed his appreciation to NPSTC for the partnership, valuable information, and reports it has produced. The PSAC has developed a webinar to share the use cases of those who are on FirstNet that is valuable in identifying gaps and lessons learned. This will continue in 2019. In 2019, the PSAC will launch strike teams to quickly turn around recommendations and validate findings quickly to meet the needs from the field. The PSAC also encourages members to include the right players from their organizations to participate in the strike teams. The PSAC met in December to develop responses to the taskings from FirstNet that focus on reinvestment in the network and ensuring public safety's voice is a large part of deciding where reinvestment is needed. The PSAC continues to work with the Tribal Working Group on tribal policy and engagement.

### Technology and Broadband Committee Update, Kim Coleman Madsen, Chair, and Michael Britt, Vice Chair

Ms. Coleman Madsen reported on Committee activities that monitor developing issues and technology that will impact public safety. She reported a vendor is proposing to send automatic data alerts to the

Communications Center when a citizen uses their personal TASER, an action that does not currently occur. Recently there was a multi-state outage of the Century Link 9-1-1 and loss of network backhaul and disruption of systems, with an impact beyond the loss of 9-1-1 services. The Committee is also following CAD vendors using Smart Watches to display incident data and messaging.

**Broadband Emerging Technologies Working Group.** In 2019, the group will hear updates from FirstNet, AT&T, 3GPP, and the PSCR. There will be presentations of topical discussion on broadband issues. The group will continue to hold roundtable panel discussions that were successful in 2018.

**Public Safety Internet of Things (IoT) Working Group.** The group has been quite active and is finalizing its Use Case Report, which includes eight use cases exploring how first responders could use IoT devices and identifies attributes that impact IoT effectiveness for public safety. The group is starting development of outreach reports for public safety agencies and will also produce a report for the Governing Board on PS IoT issues. The work of the PS IoT Working Group was presented to the FirstNet PSAC in December.

**LMR LTE Integration and Interoperability Working Group.** The group completed its MCPTT Report on User IDs, which was approved by the Governing Board in November. The group has started a review of MCPTT encryption issues. The Common Channel Naming Working Group recently completed a second report on MCPTT on Talkgroup Naming Issues.

**UAS Robotics Working Group.** The group has completed its mission. The Committee would like to sunset the Working Group. Future issues will be discussed at the Committee level. Motion and Vote: Mr. Sasser moved to retire the UAS Robotics Working Group. Eddie Reyes, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), seconded. Approved.

**VTAG.** The Video Technology Advisory Group assisted the PS IoT Working Group with development of a comprehensive video use case and assisted with the VQIPS [Video Quality in Public Safety] Leadership Team meeting in November. On January 17, the VTAG is sponsoring a Town Hall presentation on new capabilities of datacasting technology. It will include discussion on the use of datacasting to support the earthquake early warning system, enhance comprehensive school security planning, and provide major event operations support with video and data. As the VTAG has completed its current goals and objectives, Ms. Coleman Madsen asked the Governing Board to move the VTAG into monitoring status. Motion and Vote: Paul Szoc, IMSA, moved to place the VTAG in Monitoring status. Mr. Sasser seconded. Approved.

### **Federal Partners Update**

**Federal Communications Commission (FCC), David Furth, Deputy Chief.** Due to the lapse in federal funding, there were no presentations from NPSTC's federal partners.

### **Interoperability Committee Update, John Lenihan, Chair, and Jason Matthews, Vice Chair**

Chief Lenihan said the Interoperability Committee recently heard a presentation from Wes Rogers, DHS ECD, on proposed Communications Unit Leader (COMU) program changes and enhancements. The Committee is also planning a presentation on the effects of Hurricane Michael that will review both LMR and broadband service disruptions. The Committee is monitoring the issue of stolen public safety LMR

radios that were cloned to work on first responder radio networks. Finally, Chief Lenihan encouraged participation in a DHS ECD survey on ISSI/CSSI use by public safety.

**Common Channel Naming Working Group.** The group has completed its MCPTT Report on Talkgroup Naming, approved by the Governing Board in December. Because this group has also met its goals and objectives, it will be placed in monitoring status until the next National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) update or FCC action.

**Radio PCR Working Group.** This group was moved from the Technology and Broadband Committee to the Interoperability Committee because of better alignment with that Committee's mission. The group completed work on the PAM Tool Version 7. It will be in a monitoring status until the next NIFOG update.

**EMS Working Group.** The group is starting development of its work plan for 2019. **Motion and Vote:** Mr. Patrick moved to appoint Kevin McGinnis as Chair of the EMS Working Group, as Mr. Patrick assumes a role on the FirstNet Board. Paul Fitzgerald, National Sheriffs Association (NSA), seconded the motion. Approved.

### **Delegate Update**

**BDAC'S Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group, Eddie Reyes, NPSTC Delegate.** Mr. Reyes reported on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), created by the FCC last year to research broadband disaster response and recovery. The mission of the BDAC is to provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on how to accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access. The BDAC's Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group is charged with making recommendations on measures that can be taken to improve resiliency of broadband infrastructure before a disaster occurs, strategies that can be used during the response to a disaster to minimize the downtime of broadband networks, and actions that can be taken to more quickly restore broadband infrastructure during disaster recovery. It is also charged with developing best practices for coordination among wireless providers, backhaul providers, and power companies during and after a disaster.

**Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC), Charlie Sasser, NPSTC Delegate.** Mr. Sasser said his work group (WG 1) is addressing issues in the transition to NG 9-1-1 from E9-1-1. The work group has completed its report and submitted it to the FCC. WG 1 is now evaluating best practices in preventing outages in a NG 9-1-1 environment during the transition. It is also evaluating current best practices and developing new best practices, with 40 new best practices so far. The Work Group expects to complete this task in the spring of 2019.

**Alarm Industry Communication Committee (AICC), Doug Aiken, NPSTC Delegate.** Chief Aiken said the item of interest currently under review by the AICC relates to the FCC's intention to open up the central station alarm channels for use by all public safety. This would affect both the low-power channels that actually do the alarm signaling, and the high-power channels, which were meant for communications and would not be a problem to share. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has been working on some coordination protocols. The discussion will continue in January. The rules have been delayed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

## Topical Update

**CTIA, Matt Gerst, Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, and John Marinho, Vice President-Cybersecurity and Technology.** Mr. Gerst discussed CTIA's work to provide better tools for wireless 9-1-1 location accuracy. CTIA is the trade association for the wireless communications community. On the issue of emergency services, CTIA focuses on policy, testbeds on location solutions, and the National Emergency Address Database (NEAD).

Mr. Gerst discussed the adoption of device-based hybrid (DBH) solutions, which have worked very well in their testbeds. The solution aligns 9-1-1 location technology with commercial location technologies, he said, in the same manner as ride-sharing or map applications. He said that all four nationwide wireless carriers planned to deploy DBH location technology solutions.

He also announced CTIA and national wireless carriers now want the FCC to adopt the Z-axis 9-1-1 indoor location accuracy standard to provide certainty to the requirement, rather than waiting for additional testing, as the industry had previously suggested. Public safety entities, including NPSTC's members, previously expressed their opposition to a proposed 5-meter accuracy level and delays through further testing, saying that more precise accuracy is crucial and possible.

Z Axis Update: The *Stage Z Test Report on Barometric Pressure Sensors within Mobile Handsets* was submitted to the FCC in August 2018. CTIA reported that compensated barometric pressure sensor altitude information is highly complex with many variables. Performance varies significantly among solutions, handset biases, and the indoor calling environment. They concluded that the A Z-axis metric, which can be consistently replicated in a live 9-1-1 calling environment, with only two technology vendors participating in this round of Z-axis testing, under somewhat artificial conditions, is challenging.

CTIA believes that multiple positioning methods used to provide location in diverse environments combined with multiple methods with intelligent combining/selection are key to location improvements. Significant location improvements (accuracy, availability, latency) are already being seen in indoor environments – with more to come in the near future. New location methods are being added to enhance (not replace) existing methods. Collaboration continues to work best for improving 9-1-1.

Jim Goldstein asked if there had been testing of hybrid devices in the event of a power outage during a fire. Mr. Marinho said the devices can still rely on existing technologies and can retain the history of what the device "saw" before the outage. He said the industry has not conducted testing on the impact of power outages on DBH solutions.

## Upcoming Meetings

There is no date for the next in-person meeting at this time. The item will be discussed in Executive Session.

## Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. ET. The Governing Board moved into Executive Session.