

# NPSTC Discusses Current Events in the Public Safety Community

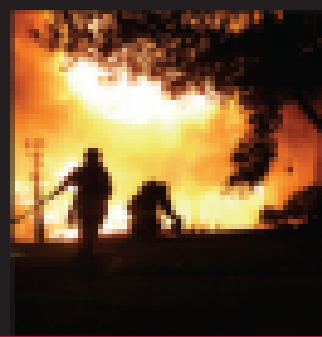
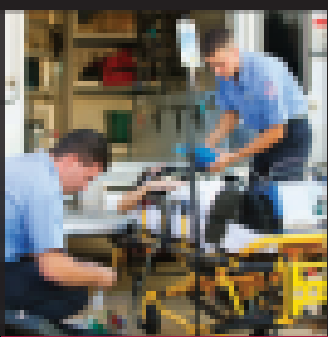
APCO 2012

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Moderator – Ralph Haller

Panelists – Marilyn Ward, Harlin McEwen, Dave Buchanan, Stu Overby, Barry Luke

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NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL



# Welcome & Introduction to NPSTC Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair



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# NPSTC Mission Statement

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NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

# NPSTC Member Organizations



## Member Organizations:

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- American Radio Relay League
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International
- Forestry Conservation Communications Association
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Municipal Signal Association
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Association of State Telecommunications Directors
- National Emergency Number Association
- National Sheriffs' Association

## Associate Members:

- Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group
- National Council of State Wide Interoperability Coordinators
- Telecommunications Industry Association
- Utilities Telecom Council

## Liaison Organizations:

- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- Office of Emergency Communications
- Office for Interoperability & Compatibility
- Public Safety Communications Europe
- SAFECOM
- U.S. Department of Interior
- Department of Justice
  - NIJ COMMTECH

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# How is NPSTC organized?

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## **NPSTC Governing Board**

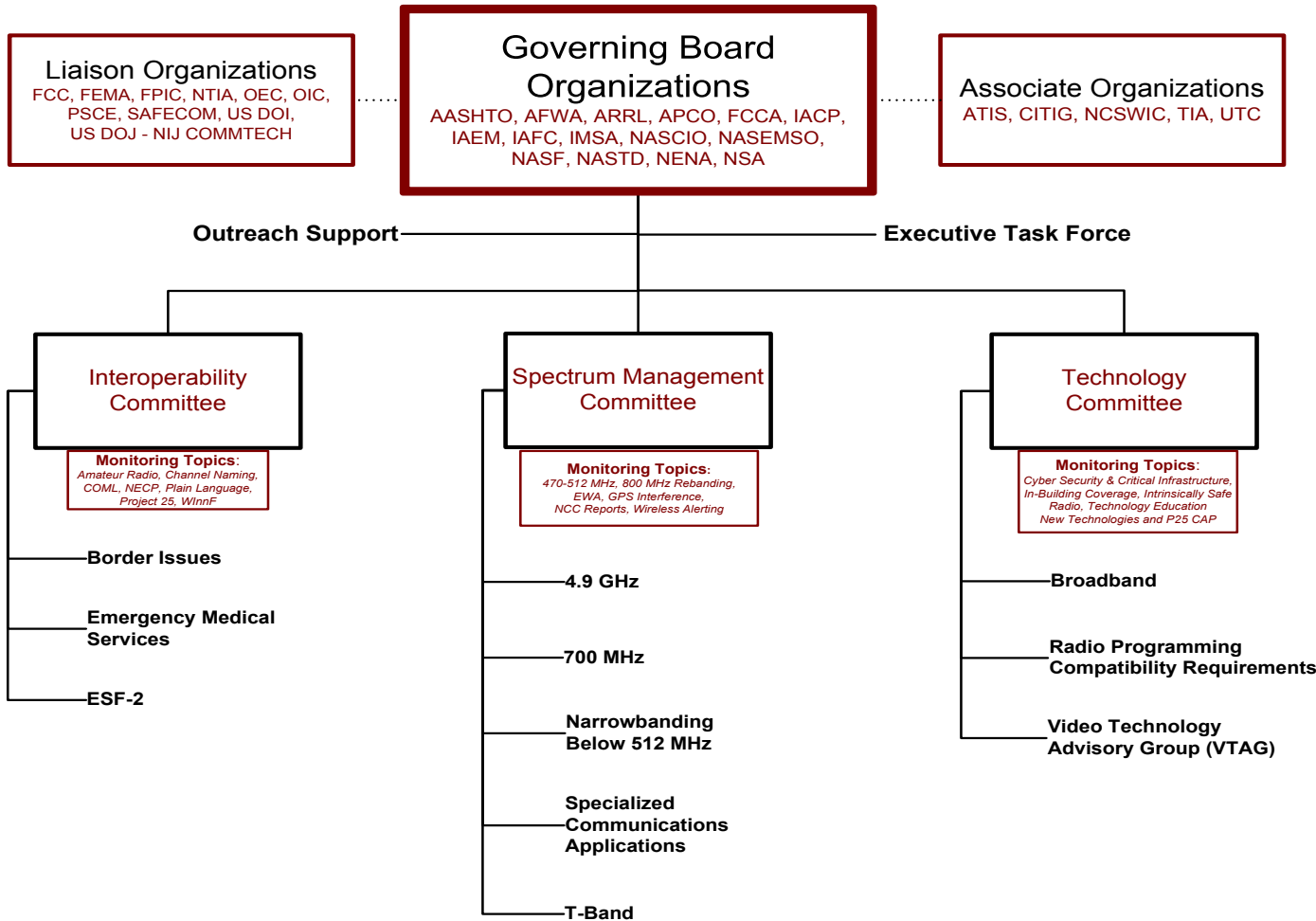
- Representatives from each of its member organizations

## **Executive Committee**

- The Executive Committee comprises a Chair, Vice Chair, Committee Chairs, Committee Vice Chairs and the Executive Director

## **Three Operational Committees**

- Interoperability Committee
- Spectrum Management Committee
- Technology Committee



as of 8/22/2012

# Our Goals

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- **Create vision** for the future of public safety communications
- **Develop common policy** perspectives through collaborative forums of leadership in public safety
- **Educate** appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues, policies and priorities
- **Educate** public safety practitioners and leaders on communications issues
- **Influence** future technologies, providers and standard making bodies to ensure public safety interests are appropriately represented
- **Advocate** the interests of public safety communications
- **Facilitate** coordination, dispute resolution and the exchange of effective practices, tools and information



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# Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

Harlin McEwen, NPSTC Governing Board Member



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## **Chief Harlin R. McEwen**

Chief of Police (Ret) City of Ithaca, NY  
FBI Deputy Assistant Director (Ret) Washington, DC

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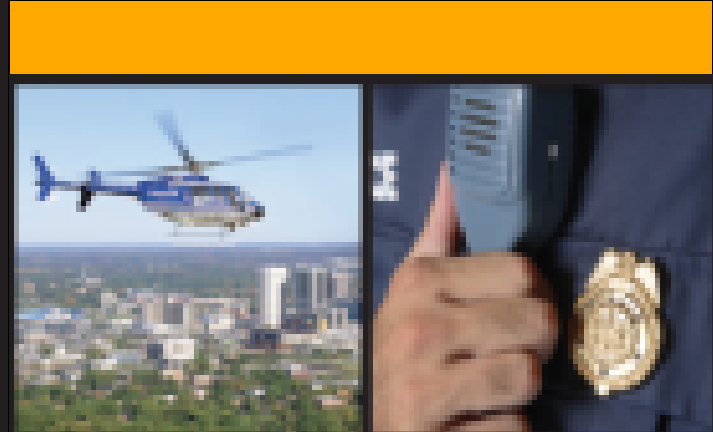
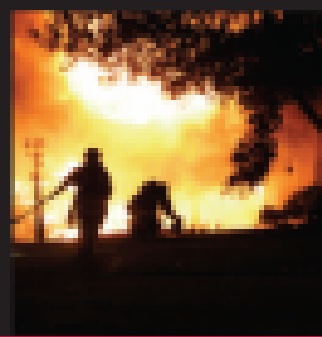
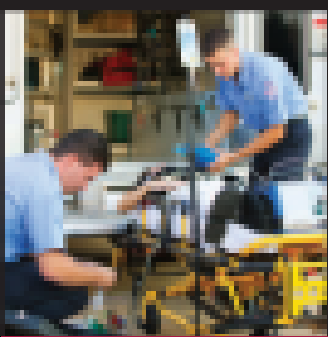
NPSTC Governing Board Member

Chairman  
Communications & Technology Committee  
International Association of Chiefs of Police

Chairman  
Public Safety Spectrum Trust



- First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board Members
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Status of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- NPSTC's Future Involvement in the NPSBN



# Current Spectrum Issues and Narrowbanding

David Buchanan, Spectrum Management Chair



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# Overview of Spectrum Items

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- 700 MHz Narrowband Clean up NPRM
  - Will address several issues with current rules
  - Should include extension of narrowbanding
  - Should include Air to Ground channels
  - No projected date is known
- Utilizing Rapidly Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture in Response to an Emergency – NOI
- Broadband Waivers – FCC order established an STA process

# VHF/UHF Narrowbanding

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- FCC requires VHF/UHF operations to be narrowbanded to 12.5 kHz or equivalent efficiency by 1/1/2013
- In July 2011, FCC issued Public Notice reminding licensees of deadline and setting forth criteria for any waiver requests
- Approximately, 46 waiver requests have been posted by the FCC
  - 11 of those have been granted
  - 1 has been denied
  - 1 has been dismissed (is in T-Band)
- NPSTC urges licensees to do everything possible to meet the 1/1/13 deadline

## 4.9 GHz Band (4.94 - 4.99 GHz)

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- Band allocated to Public Safety and used for high bandwidth, short distance communications
- Based on FCC licensing data as of July 31, 2012:
  - 2481 licenses in the band
  - 563 of those are permanent fixed licenses with 1694 sites licensed
- FCC released Fifth Further NPRM June 13, 2012; Comments due October 1, 2012 on some key issues:
  - Coordination and regional planning
  - Expanding eligibility
  - Use as backhaul for the 700 MHz broadband network
  - Aeronautical use
  - Technical parameters

## 4.9 GHz NPRM – FCC Questions and Committee Proposals

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- Propose FCC to Develop Database
- Should applications require frequency coordination
- Propose a Working Group to develop a Nationwide frequency use plan to guide coordinators in coordination process
  - The Working Group will be an open process to gather consensus on a nationwide plan
  - We will encourage Regional Planning Committees to participate and include Region specific elements to the plan

# 4.9 GHz NPRM – NPSTC Draft Proposals

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- Point to Point Links
  - Propose making all links primary
  - Propose Looking to Part 101 rules for technical changes to decrease interference from the point to point links
- FirstNet – What Role?
  - Propose Limited use of 4.9 GHz by FirstNet – primarily for Point to Point links where fiber or other backhaul is not available
- What usage for Critical Infrastructure and Commercial
  - Propose Critical Infrastructure use on a secondary basis with limitations in that usage to insure PS not crowded out– oppose any general commercial use
- Propose air to ground use using low power



# 700 MHz Sharing Agreement with Mexico

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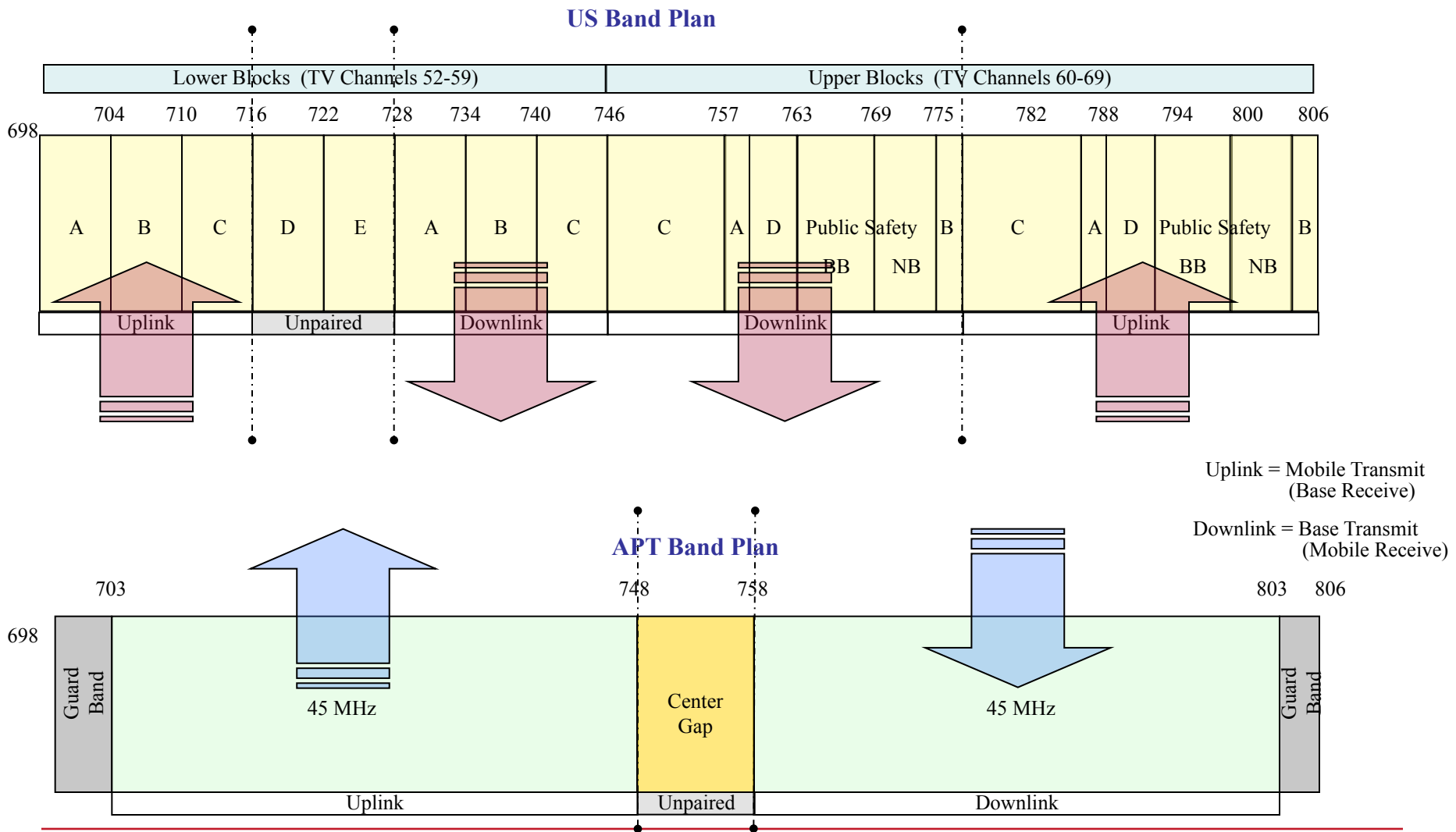


- Mexico has proposed to adopt Asia Pacific Band Plan
- This plan is mostly incompatible with the U.S. Band plan
- Potential interference from Mexico cell sites up to 100 km from border if sharing agreement is not carefully drafted
- NPSTC and APCO are working with and supporting the State Department, FCC, NTIA and Homeland Security Department to work out an agreement that works for both Countries

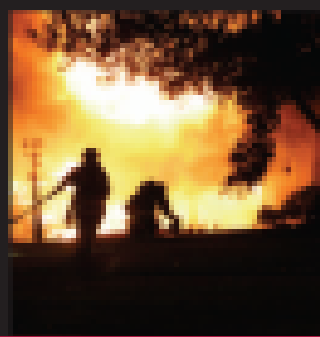
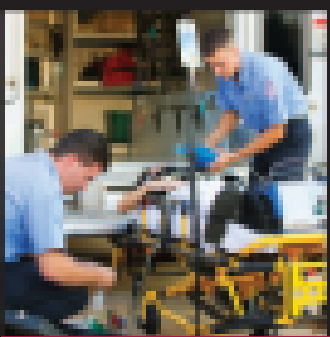


**NPSTC**

# US Band Plan vs. Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Band Plan



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# T-Band

**Stu Overby, Working Group Co-Chair**



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# T-Band (470-512 MHz)

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- Portions of the T-Band are used in each of the 11 metro areas to support Public Safety and Industrial/Business users:
  - Boston
  - Chicago
  - Dallas/Ft. Worth
  - Washington DC (including parts of Virginia and Maryland)
  - Houston
  - Los Angeles
  - Miami
  - New York City/Northeast NJ
  - Philadelphia
  - Pittsburgh
  - San Francisco/Oakland

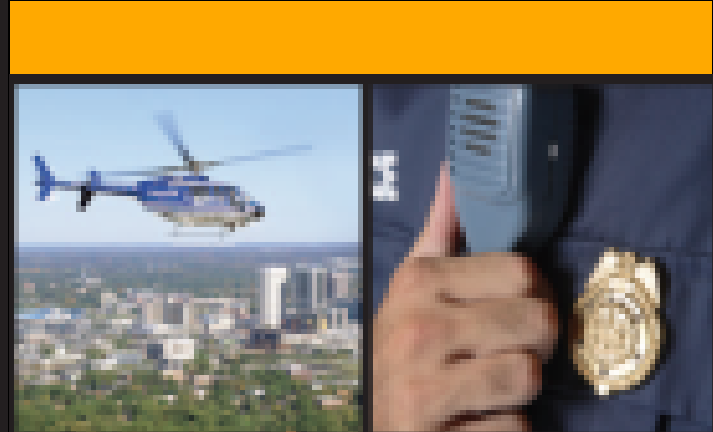
# T-Band – What's New ?

- Section 6103 of Act Requires FCC to:
  - Reallocate T-Band spectrum/start auction of the band in 9 years (by Feb. 2021) and complete relocation of users from the band within 2 years after auction is done.
- T-Band auction proceeds can be used toward relocation costs for Public Safety
- Law does not address:
  - New spectrum home(s)
  - \$\$ amount or parameters for reimbursement to Public Safety
  - Treatment of Industrial/Business users also in the band
- FCC has imposed a freeze on new and expanded licenses in T-Band impacting both PS and I/B Users

# NPSTC Initiative



- NPSTC created T-Band Working Group
  - Defining impact by developing inventory of T-Band operations and equipment
  - Examining what, if any, viable relocation options exist by metro area
- If you use T-Band, please join the NPSTC T-Band Working Group
  - To join, contact Barry Luke, NPSTC Support Staff at [bluke@npstc.org](mailto:bluke@npstc.org)
  - Also, Public Safety T-Band licensees should participate in NPSTC questionnaire at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/993962/T-Band-Frequency-Usage>
- Preliminary Report of impact, analyses and recommendations targeted for year end 2012



# PSWAC Follow-up: Assessment of Future Spectrum Technology (AFST) Working Group

**Barry Luke, NPSTC Manager, Committee Support**



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# AFST Report Milestones

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- Working Group created by the NPSTC Board in August 2009
- Report released for 30 day public comment period ending April 20, 2012
- Final Version approved by the NPSTC Board on June 6, 2012
- An Ex Parte filing with the FCC occurred on July 18, 2012



# AFST Report Findings

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- Summary of Report Findings:
  - Spectrum modeling at the scene of major incidents
    - Based on four focus group sessions
    - Southern CA; Houston, TX; Orlando, FL; Washington, DC
  - Use of enhanced public safety applications is documented
  - Assessment of VHF, UHF, 700 & 800 MHz spectrum usage
  - Discussion on alternative communications methods, including Satellite, 4.9 GHz, and others
  - Need for ongoing training, education and support for the Interoperability Continuum

# NPSTC Recommendations

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- Work Plan:
  - Assign responsibility for a White Paper on Interoperability Best Practices
  - Continue the work of the BBWG regarding requirements and solutions for public safety and issues noted in this report
  - Work with appropriate bodies regarding enhancements to Cell Edge Spectral efficiency
  - Request the FCC to address issues with Part 22 radio channels (audit, freeze, reallocate, interoperability)
  - Request FCC to audit the UHF spectrum and determine if additional interoperability channels can be allocated

# NPSTC Recommendations

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- Work Plan:
  - Create a working group to study the impact of the loss of T-Band spectrum on public safety agencies
  - Assign a study group to examine bomb robot spectrum allocation issues
- Full Report on the NPSTC website ([www.NPSTC.org](http://www.NPSTC.org))
  - *"Public Safety Communications Assessment, 2012-2022: Technology, Operations, & Spectrum Roadmap"*

## Questions?

- Stop by the NPSTC Booth #1938
- Volunteer online – NPSTC Website at [www.npstc.org/volunteersInformationForm.jsp](http://www.npstc.org/volunteersInformationForm.jsp)
- Email or call the NPSTC Support Office
  - 866-807-4755
  - [support@npstc.org](mailto:support@npstc.org)