NPSTC

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
Fourth Quarter Report 2010

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) for the Fourth Quarter 2010. NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

Governing Board

During the Fourth Quarter 2010, NPSTC held an annual review and planning meeting in Washington, D.C., on November 17, for the Governing Board member organizations, Committee Chairs, and invited guests. NPSTC's four committees, Interoperability, Outreach, Spectrum Management, and Technology, identify needs and requirements regarding public safety communications issues, as needed. NPSTC's recurring meetings and the teleconferences of the Committee's Working Groups provide an opportunity to gather the individual viewpoints and opinions of the public safety community and conversely to update the public safety community on current telecommunications projects and issues.

The meeting location at the Hall of States in Washington, D.C. was made possible by NPSTC representative Bill Brownlow, representing the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Special guests included Claudia Wayne and Amanda Hilliard from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), Karen Ray from the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), and Genaro Fullano and Susan McLean from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB). Special congratulations were extended to Alan Caldwell, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) on his upcoming DeMello Award to be presented at the RCA dinner in New York City.

Filings on Regulatory Issues

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC made the following filings to the FCC in the Fourth Quarter 2010.

NPSTC Submitted Comments in Response to the FCC's "Flexibility" Public Notice: *December 3, 2010* - NPSTC submitted Comments in response to the Commission's Public Notice released September 28, 2010, which raised a number of questions including allowing public safety the option of using 700 MHz narrowband spectrum for broadband services. The Public Notice also

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asked a number of questions regarding the impact to interoperability, operational feasibility, and technical compatibility with existing and future public safety narrowband operations, and the potential for interference if such "flexibility" is allowed.

NPSTC Submitted Comments in Response to FCC's Thales Waiver Request Public Notice: *December 13, 2010* - NPSTC submitted Comments in response to the Commission's Public Notice released November 12, 2010 regarding a request for waiver filed by Thales Communications, Inc. Thales sought a waiver of Sections 2.106 and 90.531(b) of the Commission's rules to permit the manufacture and marketing of its "Liberty Multiband Land Mobile Radio" for use by 700 MHz narrowband public safety licensees operating in the 775-776/805-806 MHz guardband.

NPSTC Submitted Comments in Response to FCC's LPTV FNPRM: *December 17, 2010* - NPSTC submitted Comments in response to the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) released September 17, 2010. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to require that all low power television (LPTV) vacate the 698-806 MHz band (formerly TV channels 52-69) by December 31, 2011. Under the proposal, LPTV licensees would accomplish this by either finding an alternative channel outside of 52-69 or by ceasing operations.

NPSTC Committee Action Items

At the November 2010 meeting, the Governing Board made the following decisions.

- The Governing Board voted to reconstitute NPSTC's Executive Task Force to focus on strategic planning and accompanying recommendations for NPSTC's goals in 2011.

- The Governing Board voted to create an Intrinsically Safe Working Group under the Technology Committee to monitor the issue of changing standards for public safety radios as it develops and to make an effort to impact the outcome favorably for public safety.

- The Governing Board voted to support a new Video Quality Working Group under the Technology Committee. OIC's Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) Working Group, comprised of representatives from public safety, academia, and industry, accomplishes it work through the ITS lab in Boulder, CO. They have issued a public safety user's/buyer's guide to video systems that allows a user to match functional needs to the technical requirements that will meet them. Recently there was a proposal to move the advisers to this program, the Video Quality Council into a permanent activity. The Spectrum Management Committee will coordinate with the Technology Committee on the spectrum issues.

Meeting Presentations

Presentations at the November 2010 Governing Board meeting included updates from OEC, OIC, and the FCC's PSHSB. Discussions included the distinctions between the regional coordinators of OEC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the FCC's desire for outreach opportunities concerning the status of narrowbanding with NPSTC, and the continued relationship between OIC/OEC and NPSTC to achieve specific goals to strengthen the Homeland Security Enterprise and First Responders' capabilities to protect the homeland and respond to disasters.

Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), Claudia Wayne, Director of Regional Coordination Program. Ms. Wayne directs OEC's Regional Coordination Program with ten regional representatives in the FEMA regions. She addressed the roles and differing responsibilities of the OEC regional coordinators and FEMA's Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups (RECWGGs). While OEC's regional representatives interact with FEMA, the mission of OEC's coordinators is to build the capabilities needed for interoperability. FEMA's role is to assist in a disaster. The roles are complementary but different. The role of the regional representative is to provide a closer interface for local, state, and tribal providers and to be the "face" of OEC at the local, state, and regional level.

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), Genaro Fullano, Assistant Chief and Susan McLean, Public Safety Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Fullano said the Bureau wants to work with NPSTC on increasing outreach on the narrowbanding mandate. He also provided updates on the FCC's Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) Technical Advisory Committee that recently issued recommendations on broadband interoperability. The Bureau is assessing the applications to serve on ERIC's Public Safety Advisory Committee and expects to name the board at the end of the year.

Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), Karen Ray, Branch Chief. Ms. Ray reported on OIC projects and the realignment at DHS. The mission of Science and Technology (S&T) is to strengthen America's security and resiliency by providing knowledge products and innovative technology solutions for the Homeland Security Enterprise. The specific goal to strengthen the Homeland Security Enterprise and First Responders' capabilities to protect the homeland and respond to disasters falls under OIC's purview.

Louisiana State University, Communication Leadership Registry (COML), Lloyd Mitchell, Forestry Conservation Communications Associations (FCCA). Mr. Mitchell reported that the COML Registry group did not meet in the Fourth Quarter.

FCC's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) Committee, Bill Brownlow, AASHTO. Mr. Brownlow reported that a CSRIC meeting was held on October 7, 2010, where the committee reviewed and approved the final reports for three working groups (WG1A – PSAP Consolidation; WG4A – 9-1-1 & E9-1-1 Best practices; and WG5A – CAP Introduction). The next meeting of the CSRIC will be held December 13, 2010. The committee charter ends in March 2011.

Executive Director's Report, Marilyn Ward, Executive Director, NPSTC
Ms. Ward presented the Executive Director's Report on the achievements of NPSTC's 2010 goals and objectives and a mechanism for planning for 2011. In 2010, NPSTC accomplished the following:

- The National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX), a secure interactive database, added many new communities, including the 700 MHz waiver recipients group.

- NPSTC produced a new mini resource CD, which has 800 documents, with links to updates material on the web.

- Face-to-face meetings were held with the FCC on August 2 at APCO and on March 11 at IWCE. NPSTC hosted a panel at APCO, a booth and panel at IWCE, presented at IACP, and shared a booth at IAFC.

- NPSTC Committee Meetings were held on March 12 in Las Vegas, NV (IWCE); June 14-15 in Alexandria, VA; September 16-17 in Orlando, FL; and on November 17 in Washington, D.C.

- Outreach Committee: Sends out almost daily outreach emails on federal, regulatory, and other important public safety communications news. NPSTC issued a Narrowbanding Tech Brief, updated August 2010; Quarterly Newsletters; Regulatory Updates in June/July and October 2010; and Website updates to "Hot Topics"; and the 2009 Annual Report.

- Spectrum Management Committee: Has a number of FCC filings including issues in broadband and narrowband communications, 700 MHz deployment waivers, wireless microphones, and 470-512 MHz. The Committee is co-chairing the Broadband Working Group's work in 700 MHz. The Committee recently reconstituted the Narrowbanding Working Group to disseminate important information as the mandatory date for narrowbanding approaches.

- Interoperability Committee: Participated in the U.S./Canada Border Workshop – Ontario, Canada; the Common Nomenclature ANSI Standard was approved; assisted in achievement of some of the goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), including the Plain Language initiative and the 9/11 Working Group Support; working on an Intrastate Naming Standard; made a recommendation for a minimum interoperability channel "load" to be included in all radios.

- Technology Committee achievements: PSWAC Follow-up: Assessment of Future Spectrum & Technology (AFST) Working Group issued an operations questionnaire that received 292 responses, and held focus groups in San Bernardino County, CA; Houston, TX; Washington D.C.; and Orlando, FL. An Executive Summary Outline is complete. The Broadband Working Group is meeting regularly by teleconference to develop a clear definition of mission-critical voice for 700 MHz.

- Changes in the Governing Board include NPSTC's welcome to new associate member, Utilities Telecom Council (UTC), with Donald Vasek and Klaus Bender serving as representatives. NPSTC also welcomed new representative, William Nelson, IAFC alternate, and Michael Corey, primary representative for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

NPSTC Outreach to Public Safety

During the Fourth Quarter, the Executive Director and various NPSTC Committee volunteers participated in meetings, conferences, events, and tasks related to public safety

telecommunications, which provided opportunities to engage the public safety community. These meetings included the following:

- Information Sharing and Coordination Working Group (ICWG) meeting
- State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) meeting
- SAFECOM Dual Path Working Group Meeting
- SAFECOM Narrowbanding Working Group meetings
- NPSTC Narrowbanding Working Group organization and meetings
- Intrinsically Safe Radios (ISR) Meetings
- PSHSB Chief meeting regarding outstanding NPSTC items and narrowbanding effort being conducted with the FCC and OEC

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference, October 23-27, 2010, Orlando, Florida.   NPSTC participants briefed on NPSTC activities, including the topic of the intrinsically safe radio issue, which generated a great deal of discussion and commitment to support NPSTC on the issue.

DHS Science &Technology (S&T) Meeting, October 27, 2010, Washington, D.C. NPSTC's Executive Director and Officers, met with the Director of First Responder Programs, Science and Technology Directorate, and briefed on NPSTC, including the history, work, and mission.

Intrinsically Safe Radios Meeting, November 16, 2010, Washington, D.C. NPSTC hosted a meeting of public safety representatives to discuss proposed revisions to be made to the intrinsically safe standard for electrical equipment, including Land Mobile Radio (LMR). This revision to the standard would have a serious financial impact on the public safety community. Representatives of FM Approvals, a standards certification testing organization, also attended the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to develop recommendations for a solution to the problem. The meeting concluded with the creation of an Intrinsically Safe Working Group under NPSTC's Technology Committee, to study the issue and communicate with the organizations involved.

FCC PSHSB Meeting, November, 17, 2010, Washington, D.C. NPSTC's leadership met to discuss the findings of the PSWAC Follow-up Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology (AFST) Working Group. The Working Group Chair reported on the Washington, D.C. focus group, which focused primarily on operational requirements and the anticipated needs, along with how the spectrum requirements far exceeded the amount of spectrum the FCC's white paper assumes.

Proposed Outreach on Software Defined Radio/Multi-Band Radio (MBR). The Wireless Innovation Forum (WinnF) [formerly the Software Defined Radio (SDR) Forum] approached NPSTC in early October regarding outreach to the public safety community on training on Multi-Band Radio (MBR). NPSTC's Interoperability Chair serves on the WInnF Board of Directors and participated in meetings discussing outreach to the public safety community. WinnF proposes to create small blocks of on-line training that can be easily fit into a student's daily work schedule, rather than trying to coordinate classroom instruction where that may be restricted by funding issues and travel restrictions, etc. There is virtually no MRB training information in the field beyond the

minimal vendor-offered classes. WinnF wants to educate the community on how SDR is implemented in the MBR products and the differences between LMR and MBR platforms.

The proof of concepts and much of the feature set and performance metrics for both the Harris and Thales MBRs were initially developed in SDR's Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS-SIG), of which NPSTC, a few other public safety representatives, and a number of companies (including Harris and Thales) are active members. The project is still in discussion.

Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program Winter 2010 Stakeholders' meeting for 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network, Boulder, November 30 – December 2, 2010, Boulder, Colorado. The PSCR hosted this meeting and demonstration at the Department of Commerce Boulder Laboratories. The meeting hosted 300 attendees, many from NPSTC, to discuss planning, scheduling, testing, and stakeholder participation and expectations.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee
The Outreach Committee's 2011 goals are to continue to engage and educate the public safety telecommunications community through personal contact at trade shows and conferences; to provide opportunities for participants to learn from others facing the same challenges; and to educate practitioners on policy, federal initiatives, technology, and the latest research through open forums and publications.

Special Project: Radios for Haiti Project.   The Chair of the Outreach Committee was approached by a group led by Haiti Engineering and AASHTO who were seeking to provide out-of-date radios to Haiti that would become available as the U.S. narrowbanding effort began. NPSTC's role would have been to provide outreach to the community on the project. Although a worthy project, it is not the type of project NPSTC has participated in and the Governing Board decided to table the discussion pending further information.

Editorial Review Working Group
The Working Group has reviewed and approved the quarterly newsletter, regulatory review, and updated Resource CD. Technical Briefs are published periodically by NPSTC and its member organizations and highlight awareness and provide knowledge on technology issues of importance to the first responder community.

npstc quarterly, Fall Edition. Articles include*: Welcome from NPSTC's Chair, How Have Your Communications Changed Since 9/11? , 755 Days Left: FCC Creates Narrowbanding Website, FCC Establishes Technical Framework for Public Safety Broadband Networks, Public Safety Needs the 700 MHz D Block, Canadian Responder Associations Create Committee on 700 MHz Broadband for Mission-Critical Public Safety Data, Broadband for Public Safety – You Are Called To Action, Proposed Changes to Intrinsically Safe Standard Would Be Costly, Alan Caldwell Wins Fifth DeMello Award, Regulatory Update, DHS's Shaffer Says Broadband, LMR Must Coexist, Focus Groups Brainstorm Future Spectrum Needs, ANSI Channel Names Updated to Add NAMES for VHF Tactical Repeaters, DHS Resources and News.*

Regulatory Updates. Detailed articles on the latest news from the FCC are issued bi-monthly, in every quarterly newsletter, and as needed for breaking news. The September/October Update included these articles: *FCC Seeks Comment on 700 MHz Narrowband "Flexibility", 700 MHz D Block Spectrum Call to Action, Comment Sought on 23 Additional Broadband Early Deployment Waivers, FCC Makes Unused TV Spectrum Available for Unlicensed Devices, Eighteen Month Band Reconfiguration in Puerto Rico Began September 20, 800 News: Application Freeze Reinstated in Canadian Border Regions. Negotiations Extended for Wave 4 Incumbents on Mexican Border, Comment Sought on Cybersecurity Roadmap, and 700 MHz Regional Planning Update*

Outreach Listserv. Almost daily outreach emails on federal, regulatory, and other important public safety communications news are sent to the NPSTC Participant and Outreach listservs, as well as other subject matter listservs depending on the topic.

Press releases. NPSTC announced the publication of the quarterly newsletter with article briefs, and sent a holiday greeting card and a questionnaire on the status of the narrowbanding effort.

Issue Brief. NPSTC publicized an effort to document how communications in public safety changed since 9/11. In partnership with OEC, the 9/11 Working Group wants to document and publish a comprehensive catalogue of achievements that showcase historical progress. The 9/11 Working Group will publish a series of five case studies based on SAFECOM's Interoperability Continuum that capture and communicate emergency communications success stories and lessons learned. They will also document the "story," and illustrate it with local, state, and federal achievements plotted on an Internet-based timeline.

Article Repository. NPSTC maintains an article repository that includes a searchable database by topic on NPSTC newsletter articles and articles in other publications that refer to NPSTC or are written by NPSTC Participants.

Real World Intelligence	Andrew Seybold	Real World Intelligence	Broadband	Links to and mentions NPSTC	Oct-10
Real World Intelligence	Andrew Seybold	Real World Intelligence	Broadband	links to NPSTC posting of T Mobile Analysis of D Block	Oct-10
Congressional Recess Puts D Block on Hold	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	700 MHz	Quotes APCO GB Rep	Oct-10
NPSTC Regulatory Update	Editor	RCC PS Comms Blog	FCC	Prints NPSTC Regulatory Update	Oct-10
Highlights of NPSTC September Meeting to AZ SIEC	Mike Britt	AZ Govt Info Tech Agency	Governing Board	Slide presentation of NPSTC Sept meeting	Oct-10
FCC Grants Some Relief of 2011 Interim Narrowbanding Deadline	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Narrowbanding	Cites partial grant of NPSTC Petition	Oct-10
Canadian Border License Coordination Needs Improvement	Ralph Haller	Mission Critical	Interoperability	Written by NPSTC's Chair	Nov-10
Lack of P25 Competition Cited in House Hearings	Editor	Mission Critical	P25	Technology Chair featured in photo and provided testimony	Nov-10
The Truth about LTE	Joe Ross	Mission Critical	LTE	Written by AFST WG Chair	Nov-10
NTIA: PSIC grant money can be used for narrowbanding	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Quotes and Interviews Executive Director	Nov-10

PSIC Grant Funds Okay for Narrowbanding	Nick Ruark	PWF listserv	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC for clarifying issue	Nov-10
PSIC Funds Can Be Used for Narrowbanding Projects	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC for clarifying issue	Nov-10
Industry Airs Major Concerns About Changes to Intrinsically Safe Radio Standard	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	Standards	Cites NPSTC letter on IS issue concern and quotes Chair	Nov-10
Broadband for Public Safety	Charles Werner	Firehouse	Broadband	Written by IAFC Alternate	Nov-10
Public Safety Industry Reps Clash on Re-allocation of D Block	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	D Block	Quotes IACP Rep/PSST Chair	Nov-10
LMR industry may have dodged intrinsically safe bullet -- for now	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Standards	Cites NPSTC for raising issue	Nov-10
FM Approvals proposes delay in implementation of new intrinsically safe standard	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Standards	Cites NPSTC meeting on issue, quotes Executive Director, notes WG creation	Nov-10
What I want for Christmas	Glenn Bischoff	Urgent Comms	911	Quotes NENA GB Alt	Nov-10
Approvals Offers Recommendations for IS Radio Standard Concerns	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	Standards	Cites NPSTC and Pinellas example, quotes Executive Director	Nov-10
McGinnis Elected Chair of Safecom Executive Committee	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	Governing Board	NAEMSO Rep Elected SAFECOM Chair	Nov-10
911 privatization rumor causes stir in Chicago	Glenn Bischoff	Urgent Comms	911	Quotes NENA GB Alt	Nov-10
Radio Club of America	Andrew Seybold	Real World Intelligence	Governing Board	Notes DeMello Winner Alan Caldwell	Nov-10
Public Safety/Industry Entities Oppose Broadband Use of Narrowband Channels	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Narrowbanding in 700 MHz	Cites large portions of NPSTC's filing as well as the PSST, AASHTO, and APCO	Dec-10
FCC Approves Initial Technical Rules fo rPublic Safety Broadband Networks	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Broadband	Quotes IACP Rep/PSST Chair	Dec-10
LMR Public Safety Narrowbanding Status Survey	Nick Ruark	LMR Listserv	Narrowbanding	Link and report on NPSTC's questionnaire and to narrowbanding web page	Dec-10
Entities Back 700 MHz Equipment Waiver	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	700 MHz	Cites NPST support of Petition	Dec-10
Public Safety Needs the D Block	Harlin McEwen	Mission Critical	D Block	Written by IACP GB Rep/PSST Chair	Dec-10
NPSTC Prepares Narrowbanding Survey	Editor	TRDaily	Narrowbanding	Reports on NPSTC questionnaire	Dec-10
CTIA,NPSTC Support Deadline for LPTV To Vacate Channels	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	700 MHz	Cites NPSTC position	Dec-10
2010: A Good Year for Broadband	Andrew Seybold	Real World Intelligence	Broadband	Cites NPSTC's work	Dec-10

Participant Development Working Group

The Working Group has a new Chair, who has met with all the Committee and Working Group Chairs to determine their needs for volunteers and who has been a valuable asset to the Committee. A more automated process to track volunteers has been instituted.

Website Review Working Group

The Working Group regularly reviews the website for ease of use and correct information. The website is a practical, outreach tool which offers pertinent information to the public safety telecommunications community. It reaches beyond program initiatives by having links to public safety organizations, government agencies, OIC/OEC, along with links to assist the community with tools to accomplish their telecommunication plans and networks. NPSTC has initiated a significant technical update of the website with the goal of improving usability and significantly reducing website maintenance costs. Statistical information is collected and reviewed as a record of public use and trends.

NIIX (National Interoperability Information Exchange) provides a centralized, secure warehouse to house communications to be shared with other members within a specific community. Registered NIIX members can access peer-created documents and share information with each other. Members can also use NIIX tools to collaborate in the creation and development of their documents. Today NIIX hosts 113 mmunities with 2,257 users and now hosts a community for the 700 MHz waiver recipients.

Spectrum Management Committee
The Committee has monthly conference calls, enabling the group to vet positions before being brought to the Governing Board. Key issues will continue to be 700 MHz broadband and narrowband spectrum as well as Low Power Television (LPTVs) that still need to be removed from the 700 MHz band, and the formation or policies and rules for incentive auctions.

The Committee had two good discussions with the FCC on narrowbanding and how NPSTC can facilitate outreach. David Warner, Virginia, is chairing the reconstituted Narrowband Working Group. The Committee is still trying to find volunteers and time to focus on spectrum for specialized needs such as air-to-ground and robots. Follow up at the FCC is pending on 470-512 MHz filings, 900 MHz public safety alerting, 4.9 GHz coordination, and a TETRA emission mask waiver request. Priorities for 2011 include continued support for broadband spectrum initiatives, protection of existing narrowband spectrum (all bands), and to support narrowbanding efforts, closely watch proceedings regarding TV white space, and continued follow up on open items.

The Committee will initiate research on the freeze on LPTV and digital TV translators. A consequence of a freeze could be that if an LPTV wanted to transfer out of the band, they would be stopped by the freeze. If it is a transition out of the band, there should be an exception to the freeze. At the November meeting, the Committee was asked to research a waiver petition filed by Thales Communications and develop comments for the FCC, which were filed during the quarter.

Technology Committee
Broadband Working Group
The Working Group has been meeting regularly and has developed a draft mission-critical voice document. The Chair asked that the Governing Board ask all member organizations to review the document. NPSTC has developed an informal process for document review to ensure credibility and buy in from the larger community and to ensure the document has the correct focus, and appropriate and complete information. A final document will be completely agreed upon by multiple representatives from the public safety community. The final report will then be prepared

for approval and distribution.   Vetting the mission-critical voice document is the first step in the process of creating a revised 700 MHz Statement of Requirements (SoR). This will be followed by a gap analysis. The Working Group may add the element of devices to this SoR.

PSWAC Follow On: AFST Working Group
The Working Group is transitioning from the information-gathering phase, which included generation and analysis of a questionnaire, and the national broadband tabletop exercises held in focus groups around the country to determine spectrum need in emergencies, and moving into further analysis, computation, and reporting. They will provide an executive summary and report or multiple reports that will be vetted by NPSTC as discussed above.

Technology Education Working Group
The Technology Education Working Group will continue to develop articles for the web page and will begin to monitor the issues surrounding cyber security and critical infrastructure as well.

Monitoring Topics
P25 CAP: The Committee will continue to monitor the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) program. At a recent P25 meeting, there was a disconnect between manufacturers and users regarding potential anti-trust issues during the console interface discussion.

Interoperability Committee
Special Topic: 9/11 Committee. The 9/11 Committee, an effort suggested by OEC and developed by interested public safety volunteers around the country to describe how much has been accomplished in public safety communications since September 11, 2001. The effort comprises three initiatives:

* Initiative 1: Publish a series of five case studies that capture and communicate emergency communications success stories and lessons learned. The studies will leverage the five lanes of the Interoperability Continuum with emphasis on showcasing a new capability, not a jurisdiction (e.g. Regional Planning, COML/COMT, P25 CAP, etc.).

* Initiative 2: Document "the story" of interoperability over the past decade to capture and package evidence that clearly demonstrates how the public safety community has successfully and effectively improved the capacity for interoperability across the nation. This will be distributed to key leaders at the state and local levels, and will be derived from a number of existing documents, plans, testimony, tools, etc.

* Initiative 3: Create a timeline to document a comprehensive catalogue of achievements that showcase historical progress. SAFECOM will document and publish a federal view of the timeline while NPSTC will host an Internet-based national timeline allowing stakeholders from all over the country to post local achievements.

Channel Naming Working Group
The Channel Naming Matrix was updated to Version 6 to add information on the VHF paired repeater channels. The changes have been forwarded to APCO for ANSI approval. A number of

states using VHF are adopting these changes. The Chair presented an intrastate channel naming proposal based on a draft document created for the State of Nevada that the Working Group will revise to create a generic template document. The Committee received a proposal that they recommend the minimum standard combination of interoperability channels to program into all radios based on the operating band that radio supports.

At a recent Communications Unit Leader (COML) training, a participant suggested a proposal regarding air-to-ground interoperability channel identification. Initially developed in response to Katrina where responders on the ground did not know what channel to use, the participants suggested that a large, colored banner, sized for visibility at typical air-ground distances, be towed behind a plane, with the interoperability channel number on the banner. It was reported that Ross Merlin, DHS, will include that information the updated National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) v2.0

EMS Working Group
A document on EMS applications for broadband that was developed 2 years ago will be in final format and posted on NPSTC's website in the near future. As the new EMS web page is established on the NPSTC site, the Chair will solicit membership in the group. The Working Group will first validate the 2-year old applications list and then attach numbers to those applications.

Monitoring Topics
Wireless Innovation Forum (WinnF, formerly Software Defined Radio Forum): The Forum would like to offer public safety training on various topics including a program on MBR, which WinnF is developing now. They are adding a primer on LTE as well. The training would be web based and could be accomplished on an individual basis when a user has time. NPSTC could provide outreach to public safety on this valuable program.

NECP Goals: OEC is developing a document on gaps and best practices identified in the completion of Goal One of the NECP, completed by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) areas. Next steps include documenting the results of Goal Two, which includes a much larger group of reporting jurisdictions. Goal Three, which involves a catastrophic event in the UASIs, is still in the planning stage but will probably be a tabletop event.

Plain Language: Now referred to as common terminology. OEC is offering a new course in auxiliary emergency communications in their 2011 Technical Assistance catalogue.

Future NPSTC Activities
NPSTC will host a panel at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) on March 9. NPSTC committees will meet at their quarterly Committee meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on February 28-March 1, 2011. In May, NPSTC's Associate Member, CITIG, has invited the NPSTC Committees to meet for their quarterly meeting at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Mr. Valcour said that CITIG would like to host some cross-border discussions and invite public safety in the Washington, D.C. area to meet representatives from Canadian industry. The dates are May 16-17, 2011.