



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

## **National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Fourth Quarter Report 2009**

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups, for the Fourth Quarter 2009. 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 2009, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board and Committee meeting at the Hall of States in Washington, D.C. on November 20, 2009. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) arranged for the meeting to be held at this venue.

In addition to the open Governing Board and Committee meeting, the Governing Board conducted its Annual Planning meeting in closed executive session, which includes participation of the Governing Board and Executive Committee members. The Governing Board determined that the 2010 NPSTC priorities should focus on: Regulatory support, Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) follow-up support, cross-border issues, and participation in the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

### **Filings on Regulatory Issues**

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC made the following filings to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and to Industry Canada in the Fourth Quarter 2009.

- NPSTC submitted a Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC on October 1, 2009, recommending that the Commission amend its rules to make spectrum formerly auctioned for the 900 MHz narrowband PCS service available for public safety use.
- NPSTC submitted Comments to the FCC on October 16, 2009, in response to the Commission's Public Notice seeking input on requests for waivers to deploy 700 MHz public safety broadband systems.
- NPSTC submitted Comments to the FCC on November 9, 2009, in response to the Commission's Public Notice seeking input on a Petition for Rulemaking by the Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA). EWA petitioned the Commission to initiate a rulemaking that would

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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 Technology Directors | National Sheriffs' Association

allow new full power interstitial 12.5 kHz channels between the currently authorized 25 KHz channels in the 809-816/854-861 segment of the 800 MHz band.

- NPSTC submitted Comments to Industry Canada on November 12, 2009, in response to Gazette Notice DGTP-011-09 on moving wireless microphones and other low power broadcast equipment out of the 700 MHz band.
- NPSTC submitted Reply Comments to the FCC December 3, 2009, to the FCC in response to Comments filed on NPSTC's Petition to extend the VHF/UHF Narrowbanding Interim Dates in Docket 99-87.
- NPSTC Submitted Comments to the FCC on December 21, 2009, to the FCC on its National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry, Public Notice No. 26, concerning repurposing of broadcast spectrum for broadband use. NPSTC's Comments advocate protection for existing 470-512 MHz systems, as well as expanding public safety use of the band throughout the country if broadcast spectrum is repurposed.

### **Governing Board and Committee Action Items**

At the November 2009 meeting, the Governing Board made the following decisions.

- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, the Governing Board approved the transfer of the Border Issues Working Group from the Spectrum Management Committee to the Interoperability Committee. The Board also moved that further action on the Region 55 Petition on cross-border interoperability in 800 MHz be transferred to the Interoperability Committee. The Region 55 Petition will be filed as soon as the FCC places the issue of channel incompatibility between Canada and the United States on Public Notice (PN). Following rebanding in the 800 MHz band, the channels in this band will not match across the borders causing potential problems with mutual aid.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, the Governing Board approved a name change from the Airborne Video Working Group to the Specialized Communications Applications Working Group.
- At the request of the Outreach Committee, the Governing Board moved to approve George Carbonell as Chair of the Website Review Working Group.
- At the request of Governing Board member, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Governing Board moved to reactivate the Amateur Radio Working Group under the Interoperability Committee.

### **Presentations**

Presentations at the November 2009 Governing Board meeting included updates from the following:

- Admiral Jamie Barnett, Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), FCC, provided an update on FCC activities and briefed the Governing Board on an opportunity that would require immediate action from NPSTC and other public safety organizations.
- Harlin McEwen, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and Chairman, Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), gave an update on the PSST.
- Lance Valcour, Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), reported on the Third National Workshop, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The workshop had an excellent response with over 200 participants.
- David Furth, Deputy Chief, PSHSB, reported on the activities of the Steering Committee meeting for the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC).
- Marilyn Ward, NPSTC, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's Report at the Governing Board's afternoon planning meeting. The report was an overview of NPSTC activities in 2009 including a review of priorities, accomplishments, and missed opportunities; potential activities in 2010; and several administrative issues to decide upon, the voting process, consensus definition, criteria for membership, and sponsorship. The priorities were organized to reflect how they support both the NPSTC Charter and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) objectives.

## Outreach

### Meetings and Conferences

During the Fourth Quarter, the Executive Committee (EC) and the Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss program planning and future meetings. NPSTC holds monthly EC meetings and most of the Committees meet in teleconference monthly as well.

#### International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Communications Committee Meeting:

The IACP Communications Committee held a meeting on October 4-5, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. During the first half of the meeting, two reports were given to the IACP Communications Committee, the 700 MHz Broadband Network Requirements Task Force (BBTF) and narrowbanding discussions, along with an update on NPSTC efforts. NPSTC was congratulated for the BBTF success and discussion ensued about the future 700 MHz work needed.

Interagency Board (IAB) Meeting: The IAB held a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, October 13-15, 2009. IAB sets standards and works with the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) on common issues. This was a meeting of stakeholders from all disciplines in public safety and was by invitation only for current practicing public safety practitioners. There are many commonalities between the IAB and NPSTC issues. The Executive Director gave a report to the Committee on NPSTC efforts including:

- Paging spectrum for firefighters
- Narrowbanding and discussion of the NPSTC request for a stay of the 2011 interim dates
- 700 MHz Broadband Network Requirements Task Force Final Report

Narrowbanding Webinar: On October 28, 2009, a webinar was conducted regarding the FCC mandate to narrowband mobile radio systems operating in spectrum between 150 MHz and 512

MHz requirement, requiring them to be able to operate in 12.5 kHz-wide channels or equivalent efficiency instead of 25 kHz-wide channels by 2013.

## NIIX

The National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) provides the states virtual, secure communities for sharing documents and for supporting their statewide planning documents. The NIIX tool is offered to communities related to the mission of NPSTC, the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), and the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) that request the creation of NIIX communities to share and store documents. NIIX activities include website maintenance, community development/user support, training, and outreach presentations.

NIIX Community Page and Coordinator Support: NIIX support responded to 730 (616 emails and 115 calls) user requests and added over 165 new users. The following NIIX Communities were developed and three Coordinator training sessions were completed:

- North Carolina Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
- NPSTC PSWAC Follow-Up Working Group: Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group
- Communications Unit Leader (COML)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)–Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC)
- RECC Community Region 4
- Florida Dispatcher Training
- Gulf Coast Interoperable Communications Cooperative
- North Carolina Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
- North Carolina
- NPSTC Technology Committee
- RECCWG Region VIII Training
- Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs)

Since the beginning of the year, the total number of NIIX Communities has increased to 102 Communities with over 125 Coordinators.

## Publications

### NPSTC Internal Publications

- December Newsletter – npstc quarterly The fourth quarter newsletter was completed and posted on the NPSTC website in early January. Articles included a tribute to those who work behind the scenes in public safety, *What We All Should Be Thankful For*; articles congratulating NPSTC’s Chair Ralph Haller on winning the Barry Goldwater Award and honoring fourth Richard DeMello Award winner, Don Root. John Powell wrote on *Standard Channel Naming: Frequently Asked Questions*; there was an article on the Public Safety Communications

Research (PSCR) Program plans to build a 700 MHz Broadband Demonstration Project; a *Regulatory Update*, by Bette Rinehart; *Since We Last Met*, a review of updates on the Project 25 (P25) task group, PSST, communications news stories, and NIIX.

Electronic Regulatory Update –November/December 2009: These are monthly and bi-monthly regulatory updates about FCC activities and issued electronically.

Tech Brief: Called, *Are you ready? Plan Now for Narrowbanding*, this document was distributed using Constant Contact, an electronic outreach tool used to inform the individuals regarding different topics and issues within the public safety community. This tech brief includes an FAQ, information on how to prepare, and guides readers to NPSTC’s home page which includes additional information.

### Press Releases and Home Page Hot Topics

#### Press Releases

- Joint APCO press release, *APCO and NPSTC Seek Comments on Draft Channel Naming Standard*
- *NPSTC Presents Fourth Richard DeMello Award to Don Root*
- *NPSTC’s Chair Ralph Haller Wins Barry Goldwater Award at RCA*
- *NPSTC Applauds NENA’s Modification of D Block Position*
- *Volunteers Needed for the Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group*

#### Hot Topics

- *NPSTC Chair Haller to Participate in October 28 Narrowbanding Webinar*
- *Are You Ready? Plan Now for Narrowbanding*
- *Volunteers Needed for the Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group*
- *AASHTO Rep to NPSTC, Bill Brownlow, Elected to Serve on FCC Advisory Council*
- *CITIG Rep to NPSTC, Lance Valcour, Elected to IACP LEIM Board; and developed blurb for web, PSST Says Broadband IS Not Alternative to LMR Mission Critical Voice.*
- *Amateur Radio Files PFR to Amend Part 97 Rules*
- *Open invitation to NPSTC member organizations to help lay the framework for Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability, and correspondence to FCC nominating candidates to serve on panel.*

### 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.

NPSTC Asks FCC to Stay Interim 2011 Narrowbanding Deadlines	Editor	Mission Critical	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC FCC filing	Oct-09
IACP Communications and Technology Committee Holds Annual Meeting	Lindsay Gross	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Oct-09
Holder Endorses D Block Legislation	Paul Kriby	TRDaily	700 MHz	Quotes IACP rep to GB	Oct-09

FCC Should Heed Concerns about 2011 Deadlines	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC petition, quotes Haller	Oct-09
McEwen Tells FCC That Broadband Will Not Replace Mission-Critical Systems	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites IACP Rep to GB	Oct-09
NPSTC Conducts Public-Safety Spectrum Needs Study	Editor	Mission Critical	Spectrum	Quotes NPSTC press release on ps spectrum needs	Oct-09
NPSTC Asks FCC to Stay Interim 2011 Narrowbanding Deadlines	Editor	Mission Critical	Narrowbanding	Quotes NPSTC press release on stay for interim dates	Oct-09
IACP Communications and Technology Committee Holds Annual Meeting	Lindsay Gross	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Oct-09
Your Opinion Counts, FCC Seeks Comments of Request for Local Broadband Deployments in 700 MHz	Robert Gurs	Public Safety Comms	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Oct-09
P25 Meetings Address CAP Conformance Debate	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	P25	Cites NPSTC resolution on P25	Oct-09
FCC Should Heed NPSTC about 2011 Deadlines	Editor	ERC News Clips	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC petition	Oct-09
APCO Announces Intent to Develop Standards for Buildout of 700 MHz Broadband Network	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Oct-09
Broadband voice intriguing, but when will it be mission critical?	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Broadband	Quotes IACP rep to GB	Oct-09
White paper: Broadband voice not ready yet for public safety	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Broadband	Quotes IACP rep to GB and white paper	Oct-09
National Broadband Plan Will Likely Make Recommendations for Public Safety Network	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Broadband	Cites NPSTC narrowband petition	Oct-09
APCO Releases Channel Naming Document for Standardization	Editor	Mission Critical	Standards	Cites NPSTC and APCO release of channel naming standardization; quotes NPSTC Chair	Oct-09
APCO Intends to Develop 700 MHz Broadband Standards	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Oct-09
McEwen Tells FCC That Broadband Will Not Replace Mission-Critical Systems	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites IACP Rep to GB	Oct-09
TIA Urges Compatible Regional Public-Safety Broadband Networks	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites NPSTC BBTF Technical Req	Oct-09
FCC Urged to Promptly Authorize Early 700 MHz Public Safety Networks	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	Broadband	Cites NPSTC recommendations	Oct-09
There Are Days I Really Love My Job	Glenn Bischoff	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	NPSTC Chair to participate in narrowbanding webinar	Oct-09
APCO Releases Channel Naming Document for Standardization	Editor	Mission Critical	Standards	Quotes NPSTC Chair and cites NPSTC 2006 effort in channel naming	Oct-09
Panel tries to clarify	Donny	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Quotes NPSTC Chair	Oct-09

narrowbanding mandate	Jackson				
FCC Seeks Comment on NPSTC Narrowbanding Petition	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC petition and quotes Chair	Nov-09
New Group Aims to Update PSWAC Report [lead story]	Michelle Zillis	Mission Critical	Spectrum	Cites AFST WG and quotes WG Chair	Nov-09
FCC Seeks Comment on Interim Narrowbanding Deadlines	Editor	Mission Critical	Narrowbanding	Cites NPST petition	Nov-09
ENTERPRISE WIRELESS ALLIANCE's 800 MHz Petition Draws Mixed Reviews	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	800 MHz	Cites NPSTC filing	Nov-09
Public Safety Communications and Spectrum Research: Policy Issues for Congress	Linda Moore	Congressional Research Services	Broadband	Cites NPSTC testimony re broadband and lists recommendations from NPSTC's 700 MHz Broadband Requirements Report	Nov-09
NPSTC Asks for Stay of Interim Deadlines	Editor	Mission Critical	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC petition	Nov-09
Public Safety Needs Study Underway	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites AFST WG and quotes WG Chair	Nov-09
Broadband Report Sent to PSST	Editor	Mission Critical	Broadband	Cites NPSTC report	Nov-09
PSST Chairman to Coordinate 700 MHz Funding Strategy in Wake of NENA Offer	Paul Kirby	TR Daily	700 MHz	Quotes NPSTC Vice Chair, and IACP rep to GB	Nov-09
Our Own Don Root	Multiple comments	PWF Forum	Governing Board	Multiple posting congratulating NPSTC member on DeMello award	Nov-09
Daniels, Haller, Root, Others Honored at RCA Centennial Gala	Editor	Mission Critical	Governing Board	Cites NPSTC Chair on Goldwater Award and DeMello Award Winner	Nov-09
What we all should be thankful for	Glenn Bischoff	Urgent Comms	Governing Board	Congratulates efforts of Haller and Root on behalf of public safety	Nov-09
Standardized Channel Names: History and FAQs	John Powell	APCO PS Comms	Interoperability	Article by I/o Chair on NPSTC's ANSI process of Channel Naming Document	Dec-09
FCC Seeks Comments on NPSTC Petition	Editor	TRDaily	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC Petition	Dec-09
Narrowbanding Notice Helps but Some Questions Still Need Answering	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Cites NPSTC Petition	Dec-09
FCC Clarifies Narrowbanding Rules	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Narrowbanding	Quotes NPSTC's Chair	Dec-09
P25 Task Group Vote Counter to DHS and User Feedback	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	Standards	Cites NPSTC position, quotes Tech Chair and NASEMSO rep to GB	Dec-09
Podcast: PSST Chairman Harlin McEwen on 700 MHz network requirements	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	700 MHz	Cites NPSTC BBTF, interview with IACP rep to GB/PSST Chair	Dec-09
Genachowski Circulates Wireless Mic Item	Paul Kirby	TRDaily	700 MHz	Action relates to NPSTC PFR	Dec-09
Industry Perspective: FCC Should Grant 700 MHz Waiver Requests	Tom Magee	Mission Critical	700 MHz	Cites NPSTC BBTF	Dec-09
Radio Club of America's Centennial Celebration	Editor	RCA Online	Governing Board	Notes Haller and Root achievements and awards	Dec-09

Don Root Receives DeMello Award	Editor	RCA Online	Governing Board	Notes Haller and Root achievements and awards	Dec-09
PSST Sends Broadband Recommendations to FCC	Editor	Mission Critical	700 MHz	Cites NPSTC BBTF and provides link	Dec-09

## Committee Reports

### Spectrum Management Committee

The Spectrum Management Committee developed and filed comments and other documents with the FCC and with Industry Canada, noted in the Regulatory Filings section above. Representatives of NPSTC met with Ruth Milkman, Chief, Wireless Bureau and David Furth, PSHSB Deputy Chief, to describe the benefits of wireless alerting, prior to filing the PFR on narrowband PCS spectrum in the 900 MHz band.

#### 470-512 MHz Working Group

The Working Group is monitoring an issue of potential interference in this band. Digital low power TV (LPTV) applications in channels 14-20 are being submitted and being processed by the FCC's Media Bureau. It is unclear if there is any coordination with the PSHSB. Applications are put out for PN by the FCC in the Daily Digest but the information can get lost in the many filings that appear in the Digest. One company has a substantial number of applications to operate in channels 14-20.

Applicants are supposed to protect LMR use in 14-20 but LPTV applications often do not include any such showing. The Working Group has recommended that NPSTC raise the issue with the PSHSB and communicate that they need a better way to flag these applications. Once flagged, NPSTC also will need technical analysis to assess potential impact on 14-20 LMR operations.

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is also working on this issue, putting together a study to examine the potential for interference with LMR, but they do not have much technical or laboratory data yet. All the rules were developed in the 1970s for analog and are clearly not applicable to digital. The Working Group plans to communicate with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), which has done a lot of work on interference from various sources and has the technical expertise to do that work.

#### 700 MHz Working Group

The Working Group is developing a white paper on the D Block reallocation to demonstrate the need for additional spectrum for the public safety wireless broadband network.

#### Airborne Video Working Group

The Working Group has been in the process of developing a PFR regarding airborne use of certain 700 MHz channels. This responds to the state of Maryland's request for assistance in this area, reported in the September Governing Board minutes, but this is a national issue as well. Key issues to consider include wide-area coordination across state boundaries and avoiding co-channel interference to ground-based operations.



## **Technology Committee**

### ***In Building Coverage Working Group***

The In Building Working Group has been working on a white paper on in-tunnel coverage. The product is in review but due to the heavy work load of the Working Group Chair, the work is on hold indefinitely.

### ***Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology (AFST) Working Group***

The AFST Working Group will assess the operational needs of public safety through the year 2020 and the technology and spectrum impacts of those needs as a follow-on to the PSWAC's report on public safety's needs through the year 2010. They are seeking volunteers from each public safety discipline (law enforcement, fire, EMS, transportation, health, etc.) to ensure that it properly captures their operational requirements. They need technology experts for the various systems public safety uses (land mobile radio, broadband, microwave, satellite, etc.) to translate those requirements into technical implementations and spectrum experts who can develop the models that can translate the requirements into meaningful spectrum needs and develop a plan for meeting the operational needs through 2020.

The Working Group issued a request for volunteers and had 40 participants on the first call in mid-November. At the first meeting, participants were tasked to review the AFST charter and to identify the number one public safety need. This will be a collaborative effort with the Spectrum Committee. The Working Group established three task groups, Spectrum, Operations, and Technical. Volunteers continue to apply to participate on NPSTC's website. The group will share documents and collaboration through its NIIX Community.

The timeline for data input would occur over the winter and spring, with a first draft at the end of the spring. The Working Group hopes to present a final version of their report to the Governing Board in October 2010.

### ***Technology Education Working Group***

This Working Group also issued a request for volunteers and has attracted new members. In the future at NPSTC meetings that are open to the public, the Working Group plans to offer topical training based on issues to be covered at that particular NPSTC meeting to educate members on technical issues and enhance understanding of the technical side of the issues the Governing Board discusses. The Working Group will also develop a paper for the website on Demystifying Project 25.

### ***Monitoring Topic***

#### ***Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP)***

The Working Group monitors the P25 CAP. In November 2009, the Project 25 Task Group voted that conformance tests aren't needed for compliance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP).

The P25 CAP was created by Congress to ensure that public safety equipment is compliant with the standard and that the equipment will ensure interoperability. The P25 CAP tests for *performance*,

to ensure equipment meets the specifications; *interoperability*, to ensure it works with other equipment; and *conformance*, to ensure it meets the standard. These three elements of the testing have been approved by the P25 board. In September, in response to reports that vendors wanted to remove the conformance component of the testing and replace it with interoperability testing, and, further, that they wanted that testing to be allowed outside of approved labs, the NPSTC Governing Board passed a resolution stating that compliance testing should be part of the testing and that P25 CAP labs should be where the recognized testing occurred.

At the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) meeting in October, there was a meeting with the P25 CAP governing board, manufacturers, and the Intersystem Interface (ISSI) Task Group to discuss the issue. [The ISSI is the software/hardware combination that ties disparate systems together and allows roaming.] The vendors said doing conformance testing after the fact creates a cost burden which they would have to pass on to the public safety purchasers and that they already do their own conformance testing. The P25 CAP board said that the testing in independent, vetted labs are different, and it does not believe that interoperability is a valid test of conformance to a standard. Both sides agreed to disagree at the time. Since then, there has been a vote in the ISSI Task Group that resulted in a 51-49 decision to remove the compliance testing.

If conformance tests aren't included in the ISSI document sent to the P25 CAP governing board, it is unclear whether the board will approve the document, which could affect DHS grants for P25 equipment. The Technology Committee reported that the recent vote on the P25 CAP testing program may have a negative effect on public safety.

### **Interoperability Committee**

#### ***Monitoring Topics***

#### ***Plain Language***

The Working Group is expecting a new Version 2 of the Plain Language Guide to review.

#### ***National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)***

The first NECP milestone is due to be completed in July 2010, by which Urban Area Security Initiative (UASIs) are expected to meet Goal 1, which states: *By 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) can demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.*

OEC tasked several focus groups to develop criteria and how to measure it. An interactive tool was developed for a UASI to do a self assessment as well. Ultimately, DHS created a planned event evaluation guide that will be released soon. Peer evaluators will observe, evaluate, and make recommendations to OEC. Plans will be validated based on common policies and procedures, leadership roles and responsibilities, and the quality and continuity of communications.

Fifty-seven remaining UASIs have been asked to provide three possible events for evaluation by December 4 that will involve multiple jurisdictions and responder disciplines and be managed

under a National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant incident command system. These events will not be graded by a scorecard as the Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) plans, but rather receive a pass/fail. The detailed report will not be released to Congress, but instead OEC will issue a report stating that all 50 UASIs meet Goal 1.

### **Channel Naming Working Group**

NPSTC's Common Channel Naming Report is in the process of being approved as: Candidate APCO/NPSTC ANS 1.104.1-200x: Standard Channel Nomenclature. The Interoperability Committee Chair thanked APCO for facilitating the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards process. The comment resolution period ends at the end of the month. NPSTC's Interoperability Committee has acted as the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to respond to and resolve the comments that have been collected by APCO.

### **Border Issues Working Group**

On the northern border, Region 55 will submit a Petition regarding the alignment of 800 MHz channels and has made comments on the Canadian inquiry on this non-alignment of channels post rebanding.

### **Emergency Medical Services Working Group, Kevin McGinnis**

The Working Group and NASEMSO and NAEMSP have authored *EMS Potential Technologies*, a white paper developed by an expert panel investigating future EMS communications needs, formally sponsored by NASEMSO, with additional sponsorship from the Vice Chair of the Technology Committee. The panel intended to present future EMS diagnostic and treatment modalities and their implications for bandwidth and other communication resources. The panel has had no problem with developing the modalities, but trying to tie the implications for bandwidth has been very difficult. The Working Group will present the paper to the AFST Working Group and ask for their input.

EMS uses mostly VHF, UHF, voice, limited telemetry services, and cell phones to send patient data. Call volume has increased every year and continues to do so, making the former ability for EMS and the hospital to update each other over the phone impossible. To ensure that communication will happen, EMS will need to depend on the transmission of data. EMS lacks some important elements of good communication: Situation awareness of events and resources, and a common operating picture that ensures all are aware of the common operating picture, including, as the situation warrants, first responders/ambulance responders, rescue/extrication responders, air-medical responders, hospital/specialty center staff, and rural paramedic staff.

To develop situation awareness and that common operating picture, EMS needs more than voice communications, but rather a network of databases [resource status, event status, adequate bandwidth to push/pull/park data—voice and other complex biotelemetry, video, and images] that is GIS-based. EMS will also need user-friendly interfaces, PDAs with a GIS-based depiction of their location, resources (police department, hospital, etc.), and the status of all those resources.

In EMS today, information is processed sequentially. EMS needs to be able to employ a parallel process using speech recognition to translate information into a text file and send it to the

hospital, to have the ability to attach health monitors that send electronic health records to the hospital and access the patient record, and to send video of the patient. EMS wants to be able to assemble all that data into the PDA so the doctor and the tech have that common operating picture.

Future predicted technologies include: Stand-off vital signs monitor, infrared crowd disease detection, portable CT and ultrasound. Technologies that would allow paramedics to practice guided medicine in rural areas include medical quality and other video. Other technologies include the ability to do multiple patient monitoring and multiple responder vital signs monitoring to monitor firefighters in burning buildings, for example. Also: Portable in-building bi-directional repeating, advanced automatic crash notification (AACN) data distribution to response units, wireless vehicle systems monitoring, and vehicle equipment and supply inventory monitoring.

### **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee is looking for articles, writers, and respondents to the proposed NPSTC blog and wiki. To review the proposed blog, visit <http://npstcblog.blogspot.com/>.

The Joint Council on Transit Wireless Communications is now hosted on NPSTC's website at <http://www.npstc.org/transitCommunity.jsp> and has a community on NIIX.

### **Future NPSTC Activities**

NPSTC will hold an informal brainstorming and meet and greet meeting at IWCE on March 12.