



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL



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## National Public Safety Telecommunications Council First Quarter Report, 2008

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups for the First Quarter, 2008. NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

### Governing Board

During the First Quarter, 2008, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board and Committee meetings on February 11-13, in Mesa, Arizona. Vincent Stile, NPSTC Chair, welcomed special guests Erika Olsen, Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC); Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC; and Charlie Hoffman, National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). New Governing Board representatives welcomed at this meeting are Jason Barbour, National Emergency Number Association (NENA); Dennis Dura, American Radio Relay League (ARRL); and Aaron Kennard, National Sheriffs' Association (NSA).

NPSTC's Governing Board hosted an orientation dinner and presentation to explain NPSTC policies and processes for the representatives of new member associations and new Committee Chairs. First-time attendees also received special meeting nametags to enhance the opportunities for current NPSTC Participants to welcome and provide information to new attendees.

### First Quarter Highlights

Notable highlights during the quarter include the following activities:

NPSTC Provided a Liaison between the PSST and RPCs: In late December, the NPSTC Governing Board established the NPSTC PSST Liaison Committee to act as a liaison between the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) and the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs). One of the most immediate tasks the FCC requires of the PSST is to oversee the narrowband relocation now required in the 700 MHz band by the FCC's Second Report and Order, which changed the band configuration. The reconfiguration requires adjustments by the agencies that have already purchased and established, or are in the process of establishing, narrowband equipment and systems in the 700 MHz spectrum. NPSTC's PSST Liaison Committee will be the forum for public safety input into the process.

During the quarter, the Liaison Committee began data collection within the public safety community to provide input into the plan development to complete the narrowband relocation. This is a massive project impacting 47 public safety systems and many state licensees. The RPC U.S.

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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 | 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 Emergency Number Association | National Sheriffs' Association

District Chairs have begun meeting with their regions and NPSTC has been providing information to the PSST representatives as they develop a plan.

NPSTC Provided Guidance on Possible Low Power TV Interference: A NPSTC representative met with the FCC to discuss Low Power Television (LPTV) incumbency on channels that could cause interference for public safety. Full Power Analog Television stations are required by law to vacate the 700 MHz band no later than February 17, 2009; however, there is no wholesale requirement to clear LPTV stations, TV translators, ad hoc auxiliary broadcast operations, or wireless microphones from the band. Under the FCC's rules, the users have secondary status with respect to public safety. This means public safety could suffer harmful interference from these secondary users. NPSTC created an informational PowerPoint, and a notification template for public safety to use to inform the interfering entities that they will have to move out of the spectrum due to interference. The materials are being distributed through the Society of Broadcast Engineers and outreach programs.

NPSTC Presented Public Safety's Concerns on the Borders: NPSTC's Vice Chair provided an excellent presentation on border issues at the Department of State, illustrating the critical and long-term issues as well as unresolved interference and coordination of frequencies at the borders. This presentation was well received. It occurred during the time that the Mexican representative, the High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC), was formulating its agenda for the discussion of 2008 issues.

NPSTC Created Enhanced Mechanisms for Outreach: NPSTC has implemented weekly outreach conference calls to establish new methods to distribute information into the community. The NPSTC Governing Board also created an Outreach Committee to oversee outreach, editorial review, and the website.

## **Presentations**

The following presentations were made at the Governing Board and Committee meetings at the February 2008 meeting:

- Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC, provided an update on current activities at the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) and the FCC.
- Chief Harlin McEwen, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), provided an update on the FCC auction, the national 700 MHz broadband network, and the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST).
- John Logan, NPSTC Support Office, provided a regulatory update on FCC activities and on NPSTC's 700 MHz Band Plan Amendments Petition.
- Kevin McGinnis, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO), updated NPSTC on the objectives of the new EMS Working Group.
- Mr. McGinnis briefed the Governing Board on the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management (TIM), a managed interactive approach to responding to traffic incidents.
- Lance Valcour, Inspector, Ottawa Police Service, provided an update on the activities of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG).
- John Powell, Chair, Interoperability Committee; John Facella, Tyco Electronics; and Larry Nyberg, Motorola, reported on updates to Project 25 Phase 2.

- Derek Orr, Program Manager, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLEES), reported on NIST's P25 Compliance Assessment Program
- Bette Rinehart, Motorola, provided an update on FCC activities related to the 700 and 800 MHz bands.

## Action Items

At the February Governing Board meeting, NPSTC's member organizations approved the following items recommended by the Chairs of the NPSTC Committees. In general Governing Board business, the Governing Board reviewed and voted on a Consent Agenda previously sent to the Governing Board for their review.

## Consent Agenda

- Approved a Past Chair Policy that includes two roles, that of immediate Past Chair and Chair Emeritus. The immediate Past Chair will serve until the Chair who replaced him or her completes their term of office. At this point, the most recent Chair becomes the immediate Past Chair. The immediate Past Chair sits at the Governing Board table and serves as part of the Executive Committee, but does not have a vote. The Chair Emeritus is an ex officio officer, who can provide advice and knowledge continuity, but who does not have a vote and does not sit at the Governing Board table. The role of Chair Emeritus has no end date.
- Approved endorsing the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC) Nationwide Plan.
- Approved the Request for Volunteers Process, a new process explaining how the NPSTC Support Office will assist the Governing Board and Executive Committee with requests for volunteers for new Working Group and project initiatives.
- Approved the National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX) Use Process, a new process explaining how the Governing Board, NPSTC Participants, and the Support Office can utilize the NIIX System for document distribution and future group messages.
- Approved Organizational Chart changes to reflect the sponsors and liaisons currently participating and involved in NPSTC activities.
- Approved a Charter Amendment to update the member organizations in the Charter.
- Approved the process for voting by ballot. If an issue has not been articulated in the NPSTC policy, NPSTC will follow Roberts Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure.

## Leadership Changes

- Elected a Vice Chair, re-electing current Vice Chair Chief Doug Aiken, International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), whose term as Vice Chair was to expire.
- Elected a new Chair, Ralph Haller, Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA) and former NPSTC Vice Chair, following the resignation of Mr. Stile.
- Recognized Mr. Stile as the new immediate Past Chair and unanimously voted that Mr. Stile be named Chair Emeritus.

- Postponed the vote for second Vice Chair, who would serve the remainder of Mr. Haller's term, which concludes in April 2009.

### **Committee Action Items**

- At the request of the PSST Liaison Committee, approved the recommendation for the 700 MHz Narrowband Relocation Working Group to provide public safety input to the PSST regarding the process of developing the narrowband relocation plan.
- At the request of the PSST Liaison Committee, approved the realignment of the National Planning Assistance and Coordination (NPAC) Working Group to include the appointment of the new chairs and to continue the work of the former RPC Committee in sustaining the work of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC).
- At the request of the PSST Liaison Committee, approved the 700 MHz Itinerant Channel Naming Working Group to address the issue of common naming for the sets of nationwide low-power itinerant channels at the edge of the 700 MHz narrowband allotment.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved placement of the Low Power Television (LPTV) awareness package on NPSTC website.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved the Above Line 'A' 30-512 MHz Working Group, appointment of Chair, mission and charter, and incorporated the Working Group into the Border Issues Working Group.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved the 470-512 MHz Working Group's mission and charter.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, approved the new Amateur Radio Working Group Chair, Tom Abernethy, and Dennis Dura as Vice Chair.

### **FCC Filings and Regulatory Issues**

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC filed the following documents during the First Quarter.

Application of the Baldwin Fire District: NPSTC filed a Reply Comment with the FCC on January 14, 2008. The Reply Comment addressed the application and waiver request for the Baldwin, New York Fire District.

Vuze Petition: NPSTC reviewed and revised a FCC Comment on January 31, 2008, addressing Network Management Policies of Internet Service Providers.

Band Plan and Channel Assignments for 700 MHz: NPSTC submitted a Petition for Rulemaking, February 8, 2008, recommending that the Commission amend its rules addressing the band plan and interoperability channel assignments for the 700 MHz public safety radio service.

Public Safety 700 MHz Broadband Licensee: NPSTC submitted an Ex Parte, on February 12, 2008, to the FCC regarding the Public Safety Broadband Licensee.

Industry Canada 700 MHz Band Plan: NPSTC reviewed and prepared a draft Comment addressing the Industry Canada 700 MHz Band Plan. The Industry Canada proceeding addresses whether its 700 MHz band plan should align with that the United States has established. If it does not, significant challenges will be created for border agency communications as it will reduce the amount of 700 MHz spectrum available to agencies and how it can be used.

## **Executive Committee**

### **Outreach**

#### **Meetings**

During the First Quarter, the Executive Committee and the Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss program planning and future meetings. NPSTC representatives attended a number of major conferences with several successful panels and information distribution to conference attendees.

State Department Meeting: During the First Quarter, the NPSTC Vice Chair and Executive Director participated in a meeting and border presentation to the State Department. The State Department's High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC) was in the process of setting its 2008 agenda and this meeting focused on presenting public safety needs for the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada.

Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Orientation: The Executive Director visited the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) in Washington, D.C. to participate in an orientation for the new OEC Director.

SAFECOM Executive Committee: The Executive Director and vice chair (via teleconference) attended the SAFECOM Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. They also participated in the monthly EC teleconference calls.

Office of Interoperable Communications (OIC) Discussions: During the quarter, several members of the NPSTC Governing Board participated in discussions with OIC and other stakeholders regarding the Incident Command System (ICS) and Communications Leader (COML) training and certifications, including developing a plan to deliver COML training to the community.

National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX): The Executive Director participated in a training session for NIIX to assist in maintaining the community pages and providing customer service to its users. NIIX now includes a community page for the SAFECOM Executive Committee.

Low Power Television (LPTV) Presentation to FCC Staff: On January 8 and 9, 2008, NPSTC representatives met with staff in the FCC Public Safety/Homeland Security and Media Bureaus to provide an understanding of this issue and obtain any guidance. FCC staff supported the NPSTC efforts and recommended that notifications for relevant LPTV and TV translator stations occur 9 to 12 months prior to actual operation of a 700 MHz public safety system. FCC staff advised that LPTV stations need this time to find a viable alternative channel and to obtain authorization from the FCC to use it. FCC staff provided a current list of LPTV and Broadcast Auxiliary stations for use in NPSTC's analysis.

Software Defined Radio (SDR) Working Group: The Interoperability Committee Chair attended the Software Defined Radio (SDR) Forum 57th General Meeting held January 14-17, 2008, in Tampa, Florida. The Chair attended the general meetings, participating in the opening and closing plenaries, as well the Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS SIG), Cognitive Radio (CR), and SDR Security Working Group and Regulatory Committee meetings.

International Wireless Conference and Exposition (IWCE): NPSTC exhibited and hosted a panel discussion attracting 72 people at the International Wireless Conference and Exposition (IWCE) held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from February 25-29, 2008. The NPSTC panel explained narrowbanding issues and the requirements of public safety users in 700 MHz, also covering border issues and the vocoder in P-25 interference to radio transmissions. Over 5,500 Channel Naming CDs and over 2,000 NPSTC newsletters were distributed from the NPSTC booth.

CITIG: NPSTC's Executive Director was a featured speaker at the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG's) Canadian Voice Interoperability Workshop: A CITIG National Forum to help identify priorities and set the future direction of a collaborative effort to help improve public safety provider interoperability in Canada. The first workshop of its kind in Canada, the event took place in Ottawa, Ontario, on March 27 and 28, 2008, with more than 180 participants. The workshop was hosted by the Canadian Police Research Centre (CPRC) in cooperation with representatives from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC), and the Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC).

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International (APCO) Western Regional Conference: NPSTC provided outreach materials to be used at the APCO Western Regional Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 30-April 2, 2008. A NPSTC Working Group Co-Chair presented on In-Building Communications, including discussion of the NPSTC white paper on In-building Communications Best Practices available on the website.

## **Publications**

Annual Report: NPSTC's Annual Report 2007 was coming off the press as the First Quarter ended. This report is not only a record of NPSTC's accomplishments within the last year as they relate to the tangible effects NPSTC has for the field, but can also be used as an educational and outreach tool for new and potential NPSTC Participants.

NPSTC's newsletter: *npstc spectrum*, March 2008, was also being printed as the First Quarter ended.

E bulletin: NPSTC published the monthly *What You Need To Know Today*, an online news brief with clickable links to upcoming events, important filings, and timely news in public safety telecommunications in January and February.

Press Releases: NPSTC issued a press release on the upcoming participation of Industry Canada, a counterpart to the U.S. FCC, at the June 2008 NPSTC meeting.

2008 Outreach Plan: NPSTC formalized its outreach goals and objectives in an Outreach Plan that defines goals and metrics for outreach, enabling the Governing Board to measure the NPSTC outreach efforts.

Article Repository: NPSTC has started several article repositories, one comprising NPSTC newsletter articles searchable by topic, and one comprising articles in other publications that refer to NPSTC or are written by NPSTC Participants.

## **Other Publications and Articles**

Firehouse Magazine Article: Chief Charles Werner, Governing Board Alternate and representative from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), wrote an article for the *Firehouse* magazine, titled "NPSTC in Action: Confronting Issues Hampering Wireless Telecommunications." The article included an introduction to NPSTC and the work efforts that are being accomplished.

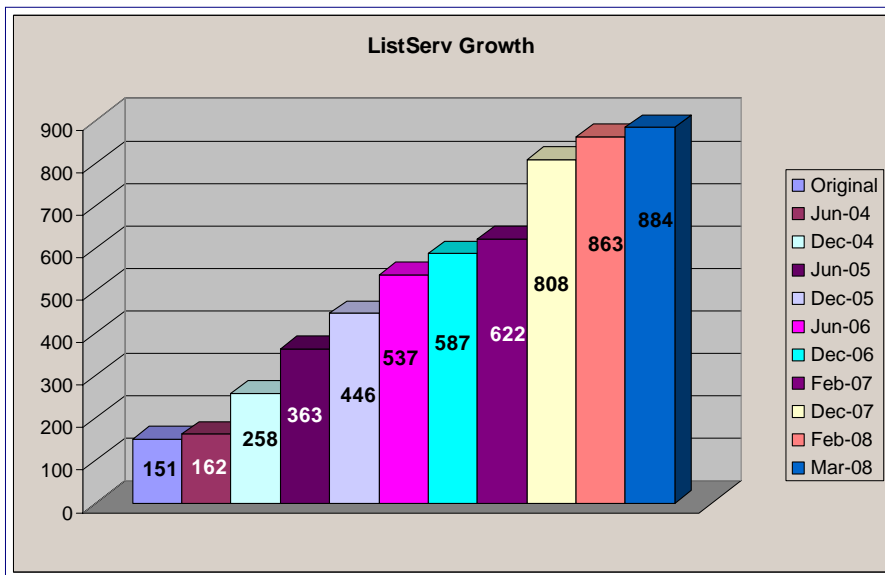
Mobile Radio Technology: MRT Bulletin: NPSTC was recognized in the March edition of the *MRT Bulletin*. The article can be seen at <http://mrtmag.com/briefs/npstc-industry-canada-0327>.

Mission Critical Magazine: NPSTC developed an article for *Mission Critical* magazine's electronic bulletin. The topic of the article was NPSTC's latest accomplishments and growth in membership. The magazine also featured an interview with NPSTC's Executive Director. The interview focused on the Executive Director's experience and past successes, along with the focus around issues in which NPSTC has its focus. This article can be found in the March issue of *Mission Critical* magazine.

**Website**



In the First Quarter, the website and listserv



continued to experience steady growth.

NPSTC's listservs have grown to include over 800 recipients.

In an effort to improve the usefulness of the NPSTC website, a great deal of time and effort was expended during the quarter in implementing a new search engine that will allow the direct searching of Adobe PDF documents with hyperlinks to the section of the Adobe PDF that meets the search requested. This will direct the user to the exact location within an Adobe PDF document and will cut down search times tremendously. Over 90 percent of the files on the NPSTC site are in Adobe PDF format so this will add great functionality and improve customer service.

Additionally, NPSTC's Technology Education Working Group is in the process of collecting and organizing a library of documents to be posted on the website.

The website features a new series of web pages specifically for NPSTC meeting registration. The registration page looks like a separate website with tabs to inform the individual about meeting details, travel assistance, hotel reservation, and meeting registration. The beta site has been tested and will be released to the public in April.

## **Interoperability Committee**

### **Interoperability Channel Naming Working Group**

The Channel Naming Task Force report has been sent to the APCO Standards Committee, which is certified to provide ANSI standards development, where the standardization process has been initiated. NTIA is working on the resolution of updates for interagency and law enforcement interoperability channels. The Working Group has also placed 800 MHz abbreviated channel names, developed for radios with only five characters available for channel names, on NPSTC's website.

### **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group**

Originally developed at the request of the SIECs to assist in statewide planning and now available to a number of public safety communities, the National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX), the secure data warehouse launched last July, allows for online collaboration on documents and community notifications as material is updated. Statistics through the end of March indicate that NIIX now has 939 users with 54 individual communities collaborating online.

### **Project MESA Working Group**



During the First Quarter, a number of federal participants in MESA temporarily shifted their efforts from Project MESA to work on 700 MHz and the broadband network.

### **Software Defined Radio Working Group**

Public safety representatives from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ's) CommTech, NPSTC, and SAFECOM have leadership roles in the Software Defined Radio Forum (SDRF's) markets, regulatory, and technical arenas (including security issues). With the imminent release of SDR-based radios targeted at the local/state public safety community operating from 138 to 870 MHz, SDR is gaining a strong foothold in the public safety market. There are still many critical issues for public safety that are in their early development within the SDRF, including reconfigurable radios (over-the-air programming) and security. The SDRF is taking a leading international role by providing input (including definitions documents) on Cognitive and Software Defined Radio to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for use at upcoming worldwide regulatory meetings that will impact the United States.

The SDRF has established liaison relationships with European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), Project MESA, and TIA; these liaisons will support the formal exchange of public safety standards documents between these organizations. It is important that NPSTC maintain active participation in the SDRF as a number of public safety-related issues in the areas of reconfigurability, security, software configuration download, and now CR/SDR impact on the 700 MHz public safety broadband network are at the forefront of meeting agendas. Numerous worldwide regulatory and technical topics relevant to public safety continue to be discussed, including international definitions and positions that will influence public safety development across the globe.

SDRF's Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS-SIG), chaired by the SDR Working Group Chair, Fred Frantz, has published several reports, *Software Defined Radio Technologies for Public Safety* in 2006, and, in 2007, *Use Cases for Cognitive Applications in Public Safety Communications Systems Volume 1: Review of the 7 July Bombing of the London Underground*. The PS-SIG will have a more detailed version of an earlier report on preliminary findings as to how SDR and CR could specifically address some of the challenges to creating an economically viable public safety broadband network at NPSTC's June meeting.

### **Emergency Support Function (ESF) 2 Working Group**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required to set up a communications coordination group within each FEMA region. The Working Group will provide input into the regional planning process to ensure better coordination for local agencies to acquire needed resources when systems are damaged in disasters, such as in the autumn San Diego fires.

### **Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) Liaison Committee**

At the end of 2007, the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee closed out its activities and was reconstituted as the PSST Liaison Committee for several reasons. The RPCs developed a new organization, the National Regional Planning Committee (NRPC), funded by NIJ through the Texas Sheriffs' Association, and dealing only with the 700 MHz RPCs, diminishing the need for a NPSTC RPC Committee as it relates to 700MHz. However, the 800 MHz RPCs have no other support mechanism, and, NPSTC's Governing Board continued to believe that assistance to the RPCs in areas such as the 800 MHz rebanding, 700 MHz narrowband relocation and RPC dispute resolution was an important service that NPSTC could and should provide.

As noted earlier, the FCC's Second Report and Order, establishing the public safety broadband network, had the effect of requiring adjustments by agencies that had already purchased and established, or were in the process of establishing, narrowband equipment and systems in the 700 MHz spectrum. One of the most immediate tasks the FCC requires of the PSST is to fund and oversee the narrowband relocation in 700 MHz. The PSST sought to rely on an entity that has had a long-term relationship with the RPC community as NPSTC has had, and, in turn, created its own ad hoc PSST/NPSTC committee to work with NPSTC and to fund this RPC assistance.

NPSTC's PSST Liaison Committee will be the forum for public safety input into the process. The Committee has established a 700 MHz Relocation Working Group, which hosted weekly teleconferences, actively seeking RPC and other public safety input, in the First Quarter. The Working Group developed an inventory of 700 MHz public safety systems and licensees and identified the four vendors who have systems in the band.

### **National Planning Assistance & Coordination (NPAC) Working Group**

The Working Group is in the process of determining if there should be an FCC filing on the dispute resolution process, reviewing NCC reports for open issues to be addressed, and asking the U.S. District leads to provide updated lists of regional Chairs and Co-Chairs. This Working Group, formerly referred to as the National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC) was changed because the word "oversight" was not representative of the intended activity, which is "assistance."

### **700 MHz Itinerant Channel Naming Working Group**

The Working Group is addressing the sets of nationwide low power itinerant channels at the edge of the 700 MHz narrowband allotment and will work with the NRPC to develop a methodology for accomplishing this.

### **Spectrum Management Committee**

#### **700 MHz Advocacy Working Group**

During the First Quarter, this Working Group undertook a number of important initiatives.

Low Power TV and Wireless Microphone Issues: Full power analog TV stations are required by law to vacate the 700 MHz band no later than February 17, 2009. However, there is no wholesale requirement to clear low power TV stations (LPTV), TV translators, ad hoc auxiliary broadcast operations, or wireless microphones from the band. Under the FCC's rules, these uses have secondary status with respect to public safety. During the First Quarter, the Working Group provided an investigation of LPTV, translators, and broadcast auxiliary, both permanent and ad hoc, including wireless microphones. Public safety agencies planning to deploy in 700 MHz will need to notify secondary LPTV stations on relevant channels within interference range of the need to move to other channels.

On January 8 and 9, 2008, NPSTC representatives met with staff in the FCC Public Safety/Homeland Security and Media Bureaus to provide an understanding of this issue and obtain guidance. FCC staff supported the NPSTC efforts and recommended that notifications for relevant LPTV and TV translator stations occur 9 to 12 months prior to actual operation of a 700 MHz public safety system. They advised that LPTV stations need this time to find a viable alternative channel and to obtain authorization from the FCC to use it. FCC staff also provided an up-to-date list of LPTV and broadcast auxiliary stations for use in NPSTC's analysis.

The Working Group developed a NPSTC LPTV package, which consists of a one-page document to encapsulate the issue, an accompanying draft notification letter template, and technical analysis slides. The notifications are targeted to LPTV and TV translator stations on conflicting channels within interference range of pending public safety deployments and would advise these licensees of the need to move to an alternative channel. The Working Group will further explore the wireless microphone issue and determine what action NPSTC will take. Notification to the NRPC was provided so they can begin at the RPC level however, we expect that it will also have to be done at the licensee or city level since there are about 20 percent of the RPCs that are not active..

B1 Block Recommendations: The Working Group examined the status of this band of 700 MHz spectrum, which will become the new guard band spectrum. Interference analysis is underway for the lower band. The Working Group does not expect to file anything on this issue until the auction is over, but wants to develop recommendations for 775-776/805-806 MHz that will mitigate any interference issues in this block in advance.

Industry Canada: The Working Group monitored Industry Canada's (IC) 700 MHz Consultation, published January 19, with comments due on March 21, 2008, discussing the key IC proposals and how they match the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) recommendations. NPSTC developed a document and filed comments.

NCC Guidelines Update: The Working Group monitored revisions to the NCC Guidelines to match the new 700 MHz band plan and standardize references to CAPRAD; this work will be forwarded to the PSST Liaison Committee.

### **Border Issues Working Group**

The Working Group, represented by then NPSTC Vice Chair, Ralph Haller, presented at the U.S. State Department in January 2008. At the NPSTC February meeting, the Border Issues Working Group developed a list of issues they considered to be critical to public safety. The general propositions they conveyed to the State Department on behalf of public safety are: Radio communications are essential for successful public safety operations; interoperability is vital between agencies and across borders; and interference poses a significant threat to successful communications and to the safety of the lives of public safety responders.

NPSTC's position on the Mexican border includes support for the High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC) and its Directory of Bilateral Issues for 2007-2009, which include protocols for VHF/UHF spectrum use, reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band, 700 MHz compatibility, and interference resolution procedures. NPSTC supports the work of the joint Department of State and DHS initiative to improve and expand cross-border communications. The Security Communications Task Group (SCTG) has developed a cross-border microwave network solution for public safety interoperability with the HLCC. Further issues for consideration between the U.S. and Mexico include 4.9 GHz and the adoption of common nomenclature for public safety communications across the border.

In Canada, work on resolving issues in 700 and 800 MHz progressed during the First Quarter. The U.S. and Canada have no common interference standards, no protocol for interference resolution, and no 4.9 GHz agreement. NPSTC is working directly with CITIG on common issues. Interference resolution procedures similar to those used with Mexico are needed for Canada. The Above 30 MHz Agreement needs revision. Too many U.S. applications are being denied and have been denied for some time. There is a very loose agreement for land mobile radio above 30 MHz; each country has the right to review new applications along the border and Canada has the option to approve or deny any application above line A. Public safety would like to develop common ideas about what constitutes interference to understand why so many U.S. applications are rejected in

Canada. An invitation to speak at the June NPSTC meeting to Industry Canada representatives was accepted.

### **470 – 512 MHz Working Group**

During the First Quarter, this Working Group, created to monitor the FCC rules and regulations for land mobile operation on television channels 14-20 ("T-Band") that make no mention of protection criteria for DTV stations, developed its mission, goals, and tasks. The current rules address only protection of analog television stations.

The mission of the Working Group is to take necessary actions to secure an update for Part 90, Subpart L of the FCC Rules and Regulations to account for the DTV transition. The goals of the Working Group are to:

- Develop appropriate technical standards for land mobile protection of DTV stations in the 470-512 MHz spectrum.
- Develop appropriate technical standards for DTV protection of land mobile stations in the 470-512 MHz spectrum.
- Update the list of protected television stations to be protected in the top eleven markets where T-Band land mobile operation is permitted by rule.

The Working Group will also analyze the benefits this will provide to public safety. The first task of the Working Group will be to prepare a Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC proposing new technical standards for land mobile/DTV operation in the 470-512 MHz band.

### **Above Line "A" 30-512 MHz Working Group**

During the First Quarter, this new Working Group developed its mission: To promote a method to expedite frequency sharing requests with Industry Canada. At the February Governing Board meeting, it was agreed to incorporate this Working Group into the Border Issues Working Group.

The group has created a draft charter; initial objectives of the Working Group are to do the following:

- Identify the people at Industry Canada (IC) with whom to meet.
- Identify U.S. State Department people to assist.
- Prepare a list of specifications agreeable to both countries.
- Request technical specifications from IC for sharing frequencies above line "A."
- Work with the State Department to negotiate and write a treaty agreement.
- Achieve a signed agreement allowing the frequencies requested by the U.S. above line "A" to be coordinated and approved in a timely manner

The first tasks of the Working Group will be to gather the following:

- Access to the IC current database.
- Ground rules to define a level of acceptable interference.
- A list of frequencies that are off limits to U.S. users.
- A list of frequencies, which are acceptable for U.S. users without power limits, but limited to FCC Safe Harbor requirements.
- Signed protocol or treaty that will be acceptable to both countries.

### **Wireless Alerting Working Group**

The Working Group has developed documents on 900 MHz that are ready to send to the FCC, but decided to hold them until the 700 MHz auction closed. The Working Group Chair reported that in June 2007, the city of Richmond submitted a federal funding request to DHS in response to a

technology solicitation on filling gaps in law enforcement operations through rapid prototyping or using a commercial solution. DHS declined Richmond's grant application, stating that they had already funded two other requests that fill the gaps, a program called Alert FM and another called, Mystateusa.com.

The Spectrum Management Committee is working to educate DHS and others on the purpose and need for public safety alerting. Commercial technologies are a poor fit, just as cell phones are not a viable replacement for P25. Paging technologies fill a communications gap that other technologies cannot fill. The perception that there is no need for paging technology as there is no commercial market for it has inhibited the effort to pursue paging as a viable wireless alerting technology. Public safety requirements are clearly different from commercial user requirements, and, in public safety, it has become a new and useful technology.

During the First Quarter, the Working Group Chair attended the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1221 standards committee and made recommendations that they incorporate two-way paging into their standards, where he reported a positive response from the NFPA committee.

### **Technology Committee**

#### **Amateur Radio Working Group**

The Amateur Radio Working Group has completed a white paper detailing the beneficial interface between the amateur radio community and public safety following catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina or the recent tornadoes in the south, but is seeking additional public safety input for the operational side of the issue before release. They also began the outreach to NPSTC members, inviting them to take the ham radio license test being given at the June meetings.

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

The In-Building White Paper on Best Practices was placed on the NPSTC website in early December 2007. The Chair of the Working Group was notified that a deputy fire chief in Ohio distributed the white paper to 18,000 public safety professionals. The Working Group Vice Chair presented on the White Paper at APCO-Western during the First Quarter.

At the same time, work continues on model codes through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Code Council (ICC) to develop national level model codes that should be published in 2009 and 2010. A report of proposals from NFPA including public safety emergency communications will be published this summer and NFPA will be seeking comment from the public. NPSTC will provide comment on the accuracy of technical issues such as signal levels.

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

The Working Group has developed a scope of the work, which will focus on highlighting technology issues that have been underserved. Materials such as publications, white papers, articles, and webinars will be developed. While the goal of the Working Group is not to provide training offered by NPSTC member organizations, it is hoped that the developed materials could be used to support other training efforts by NPSTC member organizations.

There is no lack of information to the public safety community, but there is a strong lack of organization of the material that would enhance true public safety education. The Working Group is

in the process of creating a chronological history of various complex issues such as the history of regulatory and technical issues in the 700 MHz band. Materials will be organized both by topic and date and include regulatory history and industry impact to provide context and understanding for the public safety user. Topics of interest currently include 700 MHz; the convergence of 4.9 GHz, public safety spectrum, and 5.9 GHz; Intelligent Transportation System issues; Next Generation 911 issues and implementation opportunities; and LMR 101.

### **Broadband Working Group**

Over the summer and into the fall of 2007, the Broadband Working Group and approximately 50 other public safety participants worked very hard to write the 700 MHz Statement of Requirements (SoR), which became the basis for much of the PSST's Bidders Document. The Working Group will next begin to work on the Subscriber Device section that was removed from the first version of the SoR and is seeking input from the vendor/manufacturer community and direction from the Governing Board on next steps.

The Working Group will also research the role of 4.9 GHz in public safety that has not yet been fully vetted. 4.9 GHz will have a significant role in the national public safety broadband network in that it can be used in high-capacity local incidents to avoid tying up the 700 MHz band. The Working Group will address the issue of how 4.9 GHz fits with 700 MHz, to enhance public safety's utilization of its broadband resources.

### **Future NPSTC Activities**

The next Governing Board Meeting will be held at the Crystal Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, on June 16-18, 2008. Additional future meetings will be held at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, September 15-17, 2008, and the BWI Airport Marriott on November 18-20, 2008.