



**The Collective Voice of  
Public Safety  
Communications**

#### **MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

American Association of State Highway  
and Transportation Officials  
American Radio Relay League  
American Red Cross  
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 Association of Fish and  
Wildlife Agencies  
International Municipal Signal  
Association  
National Association of State  
Emergency Medical Services Directors  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of State  
Telecommunications Directors

#### **LIAISON ORGANIZATIONS**

Federal Communications Commission  
Federal Partnership for Interoperable  
Communications  
Telecommunications Industry  
Association  
US Department of Agriculture  
US Department of Justice  
NIJ CommTech Program  
US Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA  
SAFECOM Program  
US Department of Interior

**68 Inverness Lane East, Suite 204  
Englewood, CO 80112-5108  
PH: 303-649-1843  
FAX: 303-649-1844  
Toll free: 1-866-807-4755  
www.NPSTC.org  
NPSTC@highlands-group.com**

## **National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Second Quarter Report, 2005**

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, Working Groups, and National Support Office (NSO) for the Second Quarter, 2005.

### **Governing Board**

During the second quarter of 2005, NPSTC's Governing Board approved a number of filings and correspondence with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NPSTC filed a letter Digital Television (DTV) on FCC Docket 05-62 regarding the 900 MHz bands, submitted a filing on FCC Docket 96-86 7<sup>th</sup> Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the needs of public safety spectrum through 2010, and prepared and reviewed reply comments for FCC Digital Television Receiving Capabilities, FCC Docket 05-24.

NPSTC held a Governing Board meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on June 13 and 14, 2005. At this meeting, the Governing Board formally approved a fourth Committee, the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee, and reviewed and approved a document from the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group regarding outreach and technical assistance to the SIEC community.

The Governing Board reviewed and approved a structure to define the levels of NPSTC meeting attendance. General meetings are open to the public unless otherwise stated. Governing Board meetings may be held at four different levels to be determined by the Chair.

The Governing Board distributed the Memoranda of Agreement to its member organizations, written to formalize the relationships of NPSTC's individual associations and organizations with NPSTC.

### **Executive Committee**

NPSTC's Executive Committee met in May in Las Vegas, Nevada, to review and prepare a position on a letter from RPC Region 8 on the RPC's response to the 4.9 GHz standards, which differs from the NPSTC position. Region 8 does not want a standard for 4.9 GHz at this time, while NPSTC recommended in prior filings that there be a standard. The Executive Committee continues to consider the comments filed by dissenters and will open this topic again at the November meeting. The Executive Committee also used this opportunity to meet with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ's) CommTech and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS's) SAFECOM program managers to discuss how to best integrate the three programs to provide the greatest benefit to the public safety community. NPSTC will also assemble comments on the Statement of Requirements (SoR) vetting process and provide comments to SAFECOM. The Executive Committee continues to coordinate efforts between NPSTC and the CommTech Program with particular respect to the RPCs and Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD).

The Executive Committee began coordination with SAFECOM regarding the SIEC Working Group and approved a NPSTC Statement of Work to move this topic forward as requested by Tom Coty, SAFECOM Program.

In early June, the Executive Committee attended a meeting in New York City, meeting with the Region 8 Chair and representatives to discuss Region 8's concerns and NPSTC's position. After the November meeting the Officers will again meet with Region 8 to

discuss the outcome of NPSTC's open discussion and NPSTC will write a letter to the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) clarifying the request for standards in 4.9. The Executive Committee has also invited a representative from P34 and TIA TR8.8 into the discussions.

The Executive Committee assisted in drafting a NPSTC Program Plan. The Executive Director assembled documents and created an agenda for the Executive Sessions held in conjunction with the Governing Board meetings in San Antonio on June 13 and 14.

The Executive Director presented at several meetings during the quarter, including a well-attended presentation at the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA) meeting in Nevada. The Executive Director attended both the North Carolina and Florida Association of Public Safety Officials- International (APCO) meetings. The North Carolina regional meeting was well attended, hosting 150 people, and an 800 MHz rebanding session was conducted by the Transition Administrator (TA), with several NPSTC members in attendance, including the Chair. Each attendee was provided NPSTC's *spectrum* newsletter and a discussion about the benefits of NPSTC ensued. The Florida Chapter meeting was very well attended, hosting almost 400 people. NPSTC's newsletter *npstc spectrum* was distributed at registration and initiated many discussions from interested participants during the sessions. At the Business Meeting, the Executive Director was permitted 20 minutes to introduce NPSTC and answer questions. It was an excellent forum for NPSTC. Next year the Executive Director is on the agenda with time allowed for a more extensive presentation on the benefits of joining NPSTC.

## **Spectrum Management Committee**

The NPSTC Spectrum Management Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Broadband, TIA TR-8, 700 MHz Outreach, and VHF Rebanding. During this quarter, the TIA TR-8 Working Group was merged with the Broadband Working Group due to the duplication of both the scope of work and volunteers in the two groups. As reported above, the Governing Board formally approved a fourth Committee, the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee at the June meeting, alleviating the future need for a RPC Working Group within the Spectrum Management Committee.

## **Regional Planning Committees**

During May and early June, eight RPCs—Regions 5, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24, 39, and 41—filed their 4.9 GHz Guidelines by the FCC's May 14 due date. Regions 1, 8, and 54 filed opposition to the adoption of the Scalable Adaptive Modulation (SAM) standard as a mandated 700 MHz wideband interoperability mode in response to the FCC 96-86 Docket.

The NPSTC Executive Committee met with Region 8—the Metropolitan New York City and Tri-State Area—in response to a letter to NPSTC and to Project 34 from RPC Region 8, requesting that NPSTC oppose any efforts to mandate physical layer interoperability technology modes within 4.9 GHz equipment. Region 8's RPC also urged that TIA TR-8 not make significant changes to International Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) technologies in their development efforts. The Region 8 RPC has also voted to file a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) on allowing active RPCs to disseminate any public safety 800 MHz spectrum freed by the rebanding process under their defined and equitable matrix process. It was suggested at the March NPSTC Governing Board meeting that NPSTC be a party to this filing as well.

The FCC has not yet taken action on Region 8's filing a response to opposition from CTIA and Nextel to its Petition for Reconsideration (PFR) under the 800 MHz Interference/Rebanding Docket (WTB 02-55). In this filing, Region 8 strongly defended its position and reiterated its request for increased interference protection for National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) channels during rebanding.

## **Broadband**

NPSTC has not attended the last several IEEE 802.11 meetings, although the NSO has continued to follow the IEEE 802.11 listerv and Working Group activities.

NPSTC participated in the 802.11, 802.16, and 802.20 meetings in San Francisco, California, in July. Two NSO representatives attended, one to participate across a wide variety of Working and Technical Groups, and one to focus on the 802.11 Mesh Technical Group. The Technical Group meetings primarily consisted of 15 proposal presentations. The two groups that seem to have the most widespread support and mature design proposals were the Wi-Mesh Alliance (a collaboration between Accton, InterDigital, MITRE, NextHop, Nortel, Phillips, and Thomson) and SEEMesh (a

collaboration between NTT DoCoMo, Intel, Tropos, STMicroelectronics, Nokia, Packethop, Motorola, Firetide, TI, Sony, and Samsung). Proposals varied widely with respect to the areas that were emphasized. Some focused almost entirely on MAC protocols to support mesh networking and proposed that the actual routing protocols and topology discovery were left as implementation specific. Others focused primarily on routing protocols and topology discovery. Additional requirements for a full proposal included topology discovery, security features (most proposed the use of 802.11i with very minor revisions, and interoperability with external LANs (e.g., one should be able to route between two wired LANs through the wireless mesh).

In May, the Los Angeles 4.9 GHz public safety demonstration took place with NPSTC representatives in attendance. An article on the results of the demonstration was featured in the September issue of *npstc spectrum*.

At the June NPSTC meetings, the Broadband Working Group initiated efforts to examine broadband applications. Several vendors provided well-received presentations on these issues. The Working Group will attempt to develop a national applications matrix, using Region 8's matrix as a template, and soliciting input from surveys. This will provide guidelines for application QoS in a future NPSTC-developed broadband deployment guidelines document and may feed into future revisions of the SAFECOM SoR. There was no dedicated activity toward this objective over the July period.

The Working Group has also distributed documents outlining a de-facto standardized 4.9 GHz channel plan, as many vendors have stressed the need for such a plan in order to ensure multi-vendor compatibility of 4.9 GHz equipment. The Working Group has begun a study of 4.9 GHz applications and network management platforms that will be riding above the anticipated 802.11 PHY/MAC layers, and will be working on the development of a 4.9 GHz survey that will specifically target broadband and wideband applications to send out to the RPCs.

NPSTC continues to work in conjunction with the TIA Broadband Group, TR-8.8, as well as most of the other TR-8 Committees. TR-8.8 is focused on developing and simulating use cases that will be used to develop bandwidth requirements to support user applications and scenarios. After a June working meeting in Denver, Colorado, TR-8.8 has gained convergence on simulation issues and has completed several simulation/case scenarios. Activity continued throughout July, moving on to the heart attack EMS scenario.

The P34 Group has become more active within TR-8.8 since the April TIA meetings in South Carolina. They are developing a response to the Region 8 letter and have suggested that TR-8.8 look at two parallel tracks: Quickly adapt IEEE-802-based standards as soon as possible and complete the simulation work that may identify the need for future enhancements/modifications.

## **TIA TR-8**

As noted, during this quarter, the TIA TR-8 Working Group was merged with the Broadband Working Group due to the overlapping scope of work and volunteers in the two groups.

Several members of TR-8.8 had expressed a desire to re-examine the charter of TR-8.8 and refocus energies as necessary to align with the outcome of the 00-32 Petition for Reconsideration actions by NPSTC. As noted in the First Quarter Report, at the January NPSTC meeting, it was decided that NPSTC would reaffirm their request to TIA to develop standards via TR-8.8 and that NPSTC representatives would remain active in the TR-8.8 process to "steer" it along as necessary.

## **700 MHz Outreach**

The FCC, United States, and Canadian negotiations have been completed and a new 700 MHz international Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been adopted that will allow operations on channels 63 and 68 in the border areas. The NPSTC Border Issues Working Group is working with 700 to summarize the details of this new agreement.

The Working Group is investigating the availability of 700 MHz in New York City and other constrained areas, and the sub-working group will continue to work together to develop TV short-spacing guidelines, expected to be completed by November 2005.

The Chair of the 700 MHz Advocacy Working Group has alerted key member association leaders to a National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) letter to Congress that claims communication interoperability is "fixed" in the ten cities most likely to be attacked by terrorists. The Chair is also involved in widespread discussions on how best to address this letter. A representative of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) was an active participant at the June NPSTC meetings. An ad hoc group of NPSTC representatives will work with SBE to vet various issues, including the short-spacing guidelines.

The Chair also prepared a draft document addressing Low Power TV and distributed it on the NPSTC list server for comment. Once finalized, the NPSTC document will be used to help educate and advise public safety users on LP-TV/LP-DTV issues related to the 700 MHz band.

NPSTC will file ex parte comments to the FCC-released 05-24 NPRM, reaffirming their support for not delaying mandatory DTV tuner requirements. Comments will be sent in prior to the Executive Committee meeting with the FCC staff in September.

### **Border Issues**

During this quarter, the Border Issues Working Group continued to work with the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) within the Joint Broadcast and Public Safety Working Group. This group is working with Industry Canada (IC) to develop the TV band sharing and interference protection rules for public safety and broadcast services.

The Working Group worked with the 700 MHz Advocacy Working Group to draft NPSTC comments to the IC 700 MHz Consultation. These were submitted to Industry Canada in January 2005 and NPSTC has extended an offer to Canada to further discuss and/or clarify their filing as well.

The FCC and IC are also examining the current utilization of NPSPAC mutual aid channels for international interoperability. To date no such utilization has been identified by either side. This has a significant impact on the U.S./Canadian negotiations with respect to the 800 MHz rebanding process. There were scheduled follow-on meetings between these two countries on this issue in April 2005, but at this point, no information on the outcome of these meetings is available. The next meetings to address 800 MHz issues between the U.S. and Canada will be in the fall of 2005. New York State is working on a white paper addressing border solutions that will be distributed to NPSTC upon its completion.

### **VHF**

The Working Group is in a holding pattern with regard to issues relating to an ICOM PFR, requesting additional public safety spectrum in the VHF bands (150 and 153-154 MHz). These additional channels may facilitate some of the band management and “repacking” operations that are necessary to free additional spectrum, assist in narrowbanding transitions, organize the VHF for trunking support, and lessen the effects of interference within the band.

The NSO has discussed this issue with the Working Group Chair and will provide significant assistance in generating a response to any FCC-issued docket and by performing analyses to reach conclusions about the impact and opportunities afforded by the clearing of additional VHF spectrum under ICOM’s PFR. The Working Group may now take this under consideration and may direct the NSO to perform analyses on how these channels may be leveraged to re-band portions of the VHF spectrum in certain areas of the country.

At the January 2005 NPSTC meeting, the “Ritter Plan” was again described in detail and a call was made to NPSTC to undertake planning for reconfiguration of the VHF band on a national basis. It was noted that without funding, such a national effort could not get off the ground. It was also noted that green space would also need to be identified, either through the ICOM PFR or through federal sharing.

### **Technology Committee**

The NPSTC Technology Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: NCC Recommendations, Narrowbanding Below 512 MHz, ARS and Broadband Over Powerline Technology Voice over Internet Protocol, Security, Paging Technologies, and Surveying Equipment..

### **NCC Recommendations**

Since the last quarter, the FCC issued 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> NPRMs to which NPSTC submitted comments. The more recent 7<sup>th</sup> Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published seeking to update the narrowband voice interoperability standards and establish standards for wideband data systems. The Committee enjoyed spirited discussion of wideband data standards, seeking to answer its own question: Should NPSTC retain its prior position on wideband data standards? In response, the Committee created a focus group to further examine the pros and cons of the issue and make recommendations on what NPSTC’s position should be and to put the question to a larger public safety group for comment. The NPSTC NSO was asked to put together a conference bridge and listserv to facilitate the discussion. At the June meeting, the Governing Board voted to work to develop a consensus position on data

interoperability and 96-86 position through the work of an ad hoc focus group and then generate ex parte comments on 96-86.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> NPRM, the Commission sought comment on a proposal made by the Private Radio Section of the Wireless Communications Division of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA-PRS); a proposal by Access Spectrum, LLC (Access Spectrum); a joint proposal from Nortel/EADS Telecom North America that the Commission adjust the ACP limits for 12.5 kHz bandwidth operations in order to permit use of more spectrally efficient technologies; and a proposal made by the Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC).

### **Narrowbanding Below 512 MHz**

The FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) establishing new “must” implement dates for Narrowbanding below 512 MHz. The target dates are: January 2013 for all systems, January 2011 for all changes to existing systems, and January 2011 for manufacture/import of radios. The implementation date for “new” systems appears to have been omitted from the order. At a March 29, 2005, meeting with NPSTC representatives, the FCC made it very clear after January 1, 2013 wideband licenses will be null and void.

The NSO is working with the Committee to draft a fact sheet to distribute to police, fire, and EMS personnel. The goal is to develop a generic, multi-service one-page document that is easy to read and understand on narrow banding.

NPSTC has developed Draft Comments on this Docket as well as a Draft Petition for Reconsideration that will be filed in Ex Parte. The Petition for Reconsideration (PFR) will include the following statements:

- The FCC should be applauded on the adoption of the January 1, 2013 date.
- The January 1, 2011 date should be eliminated for the acceptance of applications for new stations or for applications to expand the contours of existing stations.
- The January 1, 2011 date for manufacturing or importing equipment should be eliminated to provide a continued supply of equipment compatible with existing systems.

The FNPRM will address these issues:

- Previous comments unanimously opposed setting a mandatory date for transition to 6.25 kHz technology. Nothing has changed.
- P25 Phase II is far from being ready.
- The only technologies that can potentially meet the standard at this time are Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) and ACSSB. TDMA cannot be used in a shared-channel environment and tends to be more costly than necessary for small systems. ACSSB has no current equipment manufacturers and there is no availability of equipment. It is also questionable whether ACSSB can ever provide the flexibility of 12.5 kHz FM or digital communications.
- Requiring 6.25 kHz without an interoperability standard would be counterproductive as it would minimize interoperability, not maximize it.

### **Voice over Internet Protocol**

The Working Group is currently working on a formal Charter and Scope Statement. The Charter would consist of a technical review, asking questions, such as “Is VoIP, as currently implemented in the telephone/data environment, usable in the land mobile environment?” and “If not, what can be implemented?” It will also consist of an educational effort to inform the public safety community about the realities of VoIP performance over RF subsystems. The use of VoIP needs to be distinguished between LMR and other applications as well. A VoIP position paper was produced by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)-Northeast with the help of ITS Boulder.

The Working Group will begin working on a draft VoIP user requirements document that will be circulated to the Technology Committee for input/comments. It is expected that the VoIP requirements will be incorporated into the SAFECOM Statement of Requirements (SoR) v.2.

### **Amateur Radio Services and Broadband Over Powerline Technology**

At the March NPSTC meetings, there was discussion of a need to address cross-patching amateur radio frequencies with public safety during emergencies. Taking such action would necessitate modifications to Part 97 to permit these

activities. To date, there has been no contact with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to facilitate a dialogue that would enable the effective usage of amateur radio service with public safety.

During the second quarter, a resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Michael Ross, Alaska, and legislation proposed in Nebraska banning the use of Broadband over Powerlines (BPL) in that state. The Governing Board submitted NPSTC BPL filings to Representative Ross's office for reference material.

## **Paging Technologies**

The NPSTC filed comments May 17, 2005 requesting the FCC to allow public safety to access spectrum at 900 MHz for public safety paging applications. The Commission released the NPRM in the matter of Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Flexible Use of the 896-901 MHz and 935-940 MHz Bands Allotted to the Business and Industrial Land Transportation Pool (WT Docket No. 05-62/DA 04-3013). In this proceeding, the Commission sought to amend part 90 of the Rules to facilitate more flexible use of the 199 channels allocated to the Business and Industrial Land Transportation ("B/ILT") pools in the 896-901/935-940 MHz (900 MHz) bands. NPSTC believes a window of opportunity exists for this proceeding to provide another avenue of assistance to public safety. NPSTC is respectfully urging the FCC to allocate channels within the B/ILT pool in the 900 MHz band to public safety for digital paging.

There have been several waiver requests for public safety utilization of Part 22 Channels for paging purposes. The Working Group will investigate filing support for these waiver requests.

## **Surveying Equipment**

The Working Group is currently working on a formal Charter and Scope Statement. It has been suggested that the scope of this Working Group encompass all geo-location spectrum allocations in support of public safety.

## **Interoperability Committee**

The NPSTC Interoperability Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, Project MESA, Software Defined Radio, System Interconnect, and International Telecommunications Union.

### **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee**

The Governing Board voted to appoint Don Root, Secretary and General Manager of the California SIEC, as Chair of the SIEC Working Group. The Working Group presented a draft SIEC support plan to the Governing Board, which was reviewed, amended (particularly regarding the need to address regional interoperability issues and the need to for an "Interoperability Portal" on a national basis), and approved at the June Governing Board meeting. The NPSTC Governing Board would undertake the following initial actions.

- Validate the state-like entity as the appropriate planning vehicle in the 50 states and the trust possessions. Support or develop regional collaborations where they exist.
- Establish the SIEC Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within the NSO.
- Coordinate with other SAFECOM partners to ensure the SIEC message is consistent.

The SIEC Working Group would undertake the following actions.

- Identify the "legitimate" SIEC-like entity in each state.
- Work with stakeholders to gain concurrence for the NCC's recommendation that SIECs be responsible for all interoperability spectrum planning in their area.
- In conjunction with the SAFECOM Program, establish a program to further the "street-level" interoperability planning goals of NPSTC and SAFECOM. In the first phase, hold a national meeting to kick off the effort, followed by a recurring series of four to six regional meetings held around the country. In the second phase, provide a series of forums at, or in conjunction with, the annual conferences of the member associations of NPSTC.
- Work to provide a common national SIEC database structure to store planning documents and system information, and support SAFECOM's Interoperability Portal project.
- Assist the state-like entities to formally establish SIECs.

- Develop and promote model state interoperability plans and collaborative processes. As the “Collective Voice of Public Safety Telecommunications,” NPSTC should be the organization promoting examples of statewide plans and governance processes, in conjunction with the SAFECOM Program.
- Advocate for the inclusion of SIECs in Federal interoperability grant guidance as a review tool for State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) cities.

## Project MESA

Work previously reported on continues and there is nothing new to report during this quarter. The next meeting of Project MESA will be in Scotland, October 2005, and NPSTC will be in attendance.

## Software Defined Radio

Although NPSTC continues its participation with representation as Vice Chair within the Spectrum Efficiency and Cognitive Radio Working Group of the SDRF, activity is virtually non-existent. This group will focus on the approaches and effectiveness of Cognitive and Spectrum Sharing technologies. It will identify these approaches, and assess their effectiveness against an array of incumbent user profiles (e.g., TV operations, CMRS operations, etc). The assessment will be performed using both simulation and testbed validation techniques. This activity will result in the generation of a report that presents all of the results and which will be filed by the SDRF later this year with regards to all open Spectrum Sharing and Cognitive Radio Dockets. The SDRF Public Safety Interest Group (PSIG) continues to work on completion of its Request for Information (RFI) storyboards and report. They report that they need more help and participation from the user community.

## International Telecommunications Union

The ITU Working Group’s has been focused in Working Party 8A (Private Wireless except 3G/Beyond). It will work within ITU to develop a report that is tutorial in nature. There will be annexes dedicated to public safety, as well as ITS/telematics that will be coordinated with WP8F (3G & Beyond) although 8F’s draft report will be much more detailed, and reflect advanced work/deployment in cellular/commercial technologies.

There is a high probability that completion of the report by WP8A will be deferred to an early 2006 meeting. The implications for SDRF and NPSTC are the priority on preparation/submission of the Public Safety Annex and of major input to the Regulatory Implications Chapter.

## Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee

Newly established during this quarter, the RPC Committee is dedicated to regional planning issues at the three public safety bands—700, 800, and 4.9 MHz. The Committee has no formal Working Groups as of yet. The Governing Board approved the appointments of Richard Reynolds, National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD) and Chair, Region 28, as Committee Chair, and Ron Mayworm, Region 49, as Vice Chair.

During the quarter, the Chair completed an article for NPSTC’s newsletter, describing the scope and activities of the RPC Committee. The Executive Committee is reviewing a draft of the support plan. Letters have been sent to the RPCs inviting them to work with NPSTC through this Committee, with a favorable response from those outreach attempts.

Formed on May 1, 1997, NPSTC is a federation of organizations representing public safety telecommunications. NPSTC was originally formed to encourage and facilitate implementation of the findings and recommendations of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC), established in 1994 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to evaluate the wireless communications needs of local, tribal, State, and Federal public safety agencies through the year 2010, identify problems, and recommend possible solutions.

NPSTC has since taken on additional responsibilities including implementing the recommendations of the FCC Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC) and the support and development of the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) for 700 MHz spectrum to assist the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs). NPSTC develops and makes recommendations to appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues and policies that promote greater interoperability and cooperation between Federal, State and local agencies. Issues include: 4.9 GHz rebanding, Software Defined Radio (SDR), US/Canadian/DTV Transition, Project MESA, Spectrum Resources, Amateur Radio (ARRL), 800 MHz, State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs) Broadband, and the International Telecommunications Union.