National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
Third Quarter Report, 2006

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups for the Third Quarter, 2006.

Governing Board

NPSTC's Governing Board held its annual planning session in Denver, Colorado, on September 26-27, 2006, facilitated by Scott Bryant, Highlands Consulting Group. The discussion occurred within the context of the key issues identified in the 2005 Annual Planning Meeting and was guided by discussion ground rules for an effective strategic planning session and the ten habits of highly effective boards. As NPSTC celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, the Governing Board discussed what direction NPSTC will take over the next 10 years.

The Governing Board reviewed the list of goals listed in NPSTC's charter, looking at what can realistically be accomplished within current resources and reassessing those goals to ensure that they truly contribute to the essential mission of NPSTC. The Governing Board revised its formal mission statement, voting to approve the statement below, and developed a new list of goals, and strategies to accomplish those goals.

NPSTC Mission

Improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

NPSTC Goals

1. Create a vision for the future of public safety communications.
2. Develop common policy perspectives through collaborative forums of public safety leadership.
3. Educate appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues, policies, and priorities.
4. Educate public safety practitioners and leaders on communications issues.
5. Influence future technologies and providers to ensure public safety interests are appropriately represented.
6. Advocate/promote the interests of public safety communications.
7. Facilitate coordination, dispute resolution, and the exchange of effective practices, tools, and information.

Strategies To Accomplish Goals

1. Create forums for the exchange of information and ideas.
2. Facilitate communications through the organizations to inform NPSTC's members of the above goals.
3. Bring together the collective wisdom of public safety and communications experts. During the Third Quarter, 2006, the NPSTC Governing Board reviewed and approved filings and correspondence with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), detailed below.

FCC Filings and Regulatory Issues

- Prepared and submitted reply comments on 700 MHz Band Structure (WT Docket 96-86). July 6, 2006.

- Prepared and submitted comments addressing FCC (ET Docket 06-89) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) (Docket 060602142-01) on the President's Spectrum Sharing Test Bed Initiative. July 10, 2006.

- Developed comments In The Matter of Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, (EB Docket No. 06-119). August 7, 2006.

- Requested a conference call with FCC staff to address the need for the Commission's rules to be amended to afford state and local government agencies access to the Business Industrial itinerant frequencies for the purposes of performing geographic survey activities. Filed a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) to permit access to the Business Industrial Radio Service Frequency Pool for Governmental Survey Operations. August 23, 2006.

- Completed and filed comment addressing Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) expanding the scope of its review of new and modified communications systems (Docket No. FAA-2006025002). September 11, 2006.

- Completed and filed comments addressing the Waiver Request of the City of Richmond, Virginia, to use 900 MHz narrowband for two-way paging (Docket No. 000266020). September 12, 2006.

- Reviewed and researched FCC NPRM addressing 700 MHz guard band. WT Docket No. 06-169 and WT Docket No. 96-86.

- Prepared and submitted a follow-up letter to the Department of State addressing NPSTC's southwest border initiatives.

Executive Committee

During the Third Quarter, the Executive Committee (EC) and NPSTC's Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss NPSTC issues, FCC filings and comments, program planning, and future meetings. The EC met on the third Tuesday of the month, initiating these monthly calls in July, and met in August and, in person, in September at the Governing Board meeting in Denver, Colorado.   The EC focused its attentions on the following issues during the Third Quarter:

- 700 MHz band plan, including wideband/broadband configuration and guard band issues
- Border interference in all bands
- Cyren Call proposal for commercial/public safety nationwide network
- Access Spectrum and Pegasus proposal
- Common nomenclature
- State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs) and a national SIEC conference in conjunction with SAFECOM and the National Governors Association (NGA)

Issues addressed include the following:

- Review a letter to the Transition Administrator (TA) requesting assistance in educating their constituency on common nomenclature
- Initiate follow-up activities on the State Department meetings on the border issues
- Work with SAFECOM on the SIEC Workshop Criteria and the interoperability scorecard
- Meet with the RPCs regarding training and software tools
- Review and coordinate response to Cyren Call Proposal
- Develop a response on the Access Spectrum/Pegasus proposal

- Plan agenda for the Governing Board Annual Planning Meeting
- Investigate 900 MHz Paging
- Hold conference call meetings regarding the 700 MHz band plan

Events and Activities

State Department Meeting

Representatives of NPSTC, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), the border states, and the FCC participated in an important, first-time State Department meeting on June 30, 2006, laying the groundwork for public safety telecommunication input to the State Department on border issues. The meeting with Ambassador Gross was held in Washington, D.C., where the 700 MHz, 800 MHz rebanding, 4.9 and 5.9 GHz bands, and VHF below 512 MHz interference and mutual aid issues were discussed. Ambassador Gross outlined the limits of NPSTC participation in international negotiations and suggested that a task group be created to include representation from NPSTC's organizations and the states bordering Mexico to gather more information.

NPSTC will also have an opportunity to meet with Ambassador Gross on the Canadian border issues in the very near future. The meeting was followed by letters of correspondence announcing commitments to keep all interested parties informed of this important opportunity for participation.

Panels and Conferences

Representatives of NPSTC's Governing Board and/or its Executive Director hosted or participated in a number of panels and conferences during this quarter. At the APCO International Conference, held in Orlando, Florida, on August 7-12, 2006, NPSTC hosted panels focusing on NPSTC's mission and role in public safety telecommunications, the re-institution of the National Plan Oversight Committee (NPOC) as proposed by the National Coordination Committee (NCC), and another focused on the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs). NPSTC Technology Committee Chair, Glen Nash, was a keynote speaker at the Radio Club of America (RCA) breakfast held at APCO.

Representatives of NPSTC's Governing Board and/or its Executive Director also completed preparations and participated in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) in Dallas, Texas, in September; the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), and the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) panels, and attended the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security (DoD/DHS) Critical Incident Technologies Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, September 6-8, 2006.

Conference Calls and Publications

During the Third Quarter, the Executive Committee drafted and completed filings and correspondence for the Governing Board's approval and other communications with the FCC, detailed previously. The EC participated in numerous conference calls to discuss the RPC training plan, the response to the Katrina filings, 700 MHz, mid-year planning of NPSTC goals and objectives, and the final preparations for the Richard DeMello Award. The EC reviewed and approved a number of other documents and publications of NPSTC, an article on NPSTC written for *Mission Critical* magazine, the monthly *e-spectrum* and quarterly *npstc spectrum* newsletters, Governing Board minutes, correspondence, NPSTC Handbook additions, and website materials.

Spectrum Management Committee

The NPSTC Spectrum Management Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Broadband/Wideband, Border Issues, 700 MHz Advocacy, In-Building Coverage, and VHF Spectrum Below 512.

The Spectrum Management Committee was represented at the Executive Committee Monthly Teleconferences, State Department Meeting, APCO International Conference, and Governing Board's Annual Planning Meeting. The Governing Board did not hold a full quarterly meeting during the Third Quarter so there were no official reports from the Working Groups.

During this quarter the Spectrum Management Committee completed its work on the 700 MHz broadband filing and continued to research and discuss the Access Spectrum/Pegasus proposal. During the quarter, the Broadband Working Group researched the conditions associated with Access Spectrum's proposal—how to coexist with Canada's plans, how to handle those who have already bought equipment, and how to ensure there are adequate interference protections. The

Committee also prepared recommendations in response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) /FCC RFI on spectrum sharing due on July 1, 2006.

New Items for Governing Board Review

At the Governing Board's Planning Meeting, the Governing Board approved the following actions:

- Move the In-Building Coverage Working Group from the Spectrum Committee to the Technology Committee.
- Discuss new directions for the 700 Advocacy Working Group originally formed to deal with Digital Television (DTV) issues as the new issues are very different from original issues.

Technology Committee

The NPSTC Technology Committee oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Security, Wireless Alerting, Surveying Equipment, Voice over Internet Protocol, Public Safety Interface to Emergency Alert Systems, and In-Building Coverage.

The Technology Committee was represented at the Executive Committee Monthly Teleconferences, State Department Meeting, APCO International Conference, and Governing Board's Annual Planning Meeting. The Governing Board did not hold a full quarterly meeting during the Third Quarter so there were no official reports from the Working Groups.

During this quarter the Committee conducted a review of the technical supplement to the Statement of Requirements (SoR) v2.0 in Boulder, Colorado. After presentations made by representatives of the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS), the authors of the SoR, discussions were held regarding each of the major sections and suggestions were made regarding ways the document could be made more understandable and useful to local governmental officials.

The Committee held ongoing discussions with the Project 25 User Needs Committee and members of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) regarding the request forwarded to them for the addition of a "user need" for an alerting function within the Project 25 Standard.

New Items for Governing Board Review

At the Governing Board's Planning Meeting, the Governing Board approved the following actions:

- Change the name of the Paging Working Group to the Wireless Alerting Working Group.
- Eliminate the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) Working Group.
- Change the Emergency Alert Services (EAS) Working Group to Public Safety Interface to EAS Working Group.

Interoperability Committee

The NPSTC Interoperability Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, Project MESA, Software Defined Radio, and Broadband Interoperability.

The Interoperability Committee was represented at the Executive Committee Monthly Teleconferences, State Department Meeting, APCO International Conference, and Governing Board's Annual Planning Meeting. The Governing Board did not hold a full quarterly meeting during the Third Quarter so there were no official reports from the Working Groups.

NPSTC Committee Chair John Powell attended the Software Defined Radio (SDR) Forum on September 11-14, 2006, in Munich, Germany, and reported on the following:

- Attended the End-to-End Reconfigurability Workshop, particularly discussing the importance of over-the-air programming for public safety agencies.

- Met with Jim Gunn regarding an upcoming public safety study and its implications for the public safety community and overall market.
- Participated in the Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS SIG) Regulatory, and Security Architecture meetings.
- Initiated steps to develop SDR Forum liaisons between European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), Project MESA, and TIA to allow streamlined exchange of public safety documents between these standards organizations.

New Items for Governing Board Review

At the Governing Board's Planning Meeting, the Governing Board approved the following actions:

- Eliminate the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Working Group. Feedback on ITU activities comes from SDR activities and could be eliminated.
- Eliminate the System Interconnects Working Group, which has completed its work.

Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee

The NPSTC RPC Committee currently oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: RPC Plan Assist Funding, 800 MHz Rebanding Support, Common Nomenclature, NPOC, and Software, Tools, and Training.

The RPC Committee was represented at the Executive Committee Monthly Teleconferences, State Department Meeting, APCO International Conference, and Governing Board's Annual Planning Meeting. The Governing Board did not hold a full quarterly meeting during the Third Quarter so there were no official reports from the Working Groups.

During the quarter, the Committee drafted a letter from NPSTC to the 800 MHz Transition Administrator requesting assistance with publicizing and promoting the NCC scheme for common nomenclature, discussed additional actions that NPSTC could take to assist RPCs with 700 MHz planning, and undertook comprehensive planning and research for the upcoming RPC training days.

Future NPSTC Activities

The NPSTC Governing Board will hold its next quarterly meetings on November 14-17, 2006, in Long Island, New York. Day one will comprise a full day of RPC meetings and training, followed by Committee meetings on day two, the Governing Board meeting on day three, and an Executive Committee meeting on Friday, November 17. RPC training will also be offered on the first day of the 2007 meetings to be held in Denver and in Washington, D.C. Dates and locations for NPSTC meetings in 2007 are as follows: February 5-7, 2007, Orlando, Florida; June 11-13, Denver, Colorado; September 10-12, Washington, D.C.; and November 14-16, Long Island, New York.

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.