



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

**National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
Committee and Governing Board Meetings
February 11, 2009
By Teleconference**

Opening Remarks, Ralph Haller, Chair, NPSTC

Ralph Haller, Chair, NPSTC, welcomed NPSTC's Governing Board Members and Participants to the quarterly Governing Board meeting held by teleconference on February 11, 2009. Mr. Haller welcomed special guests, Kathleen Higgins, Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Chris Essid, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC); and Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Mr. Haller also welcomed new Governing Board representatives, Jack Doane, the new alternate representing the National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD), and Mike Lokatis, representing the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO).

Following the roll call, which confirmed a quorum was present, Mr. Haller called for a motion to approve the agenda. Paul Leary, Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), moved to approve the agenda; Dennis Dura, Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) seconded. Approved.

Regulatory Update, Jeff Cohen Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Mr. Cohen reported on the changes at the Commission that have occurred during the transition to the new administration. Former Bureau Chief, Derek Poarch has resigned as Chief at the PSHSB and will be missed, he said, but at the same time, Mr. Cohen said, the Bureau was very pleased to welcome David Furth as acting Bureau Chief. Erika Olsen has returned to her role as Deputy Bureau Chief. Mr. Cohen provided updates on the following ongoing activities.

700 MHz—The Digital Television (DTV) transition is the primary focus of Acting Chairman Michael Copps and the Commission. The Commission is using this extra time to brainstorm preparations for next steps in the transition. Mr. Cohen is representing Mr. Furth on the Commission's DTV Task Force and said most of the issues under discussion don't concern public safety. They are aware that a few agencies were planning to deploy in 700 MHz on February 17, but they are not aware of any serious problems at the present time. Mr. Cohen said a related issue involves television stations that do plan to end analog operations on February 17. The FCC is concerned that this action might trigger 911 calls from citizens who aren't aware the analog stations are going off the air.

The Commission must also address the February 17, 2009 deadline mandated by the Second Report and Order (R&O) requiring that licensees who deployed narrowband 700 MHz systems under the previous band plan complete relocation to the revised 700 MHz band plan. This requirement was adopted contingent on a successful D Block auction, a rebanding plan, and a funding mechanism to

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

fund the cost. Since these events have not occurred, the Bureau has let the FCC Acting Chairman know that the requirement must be stayed.

700 MHz Regional Plans—There are 30 plans, amendments, or revised plans on file, with 13 approved, 4 put on Public Notice (PN) for comment, with the comment period ending on February 17; 3 approved for placement on PN, and 3 additional PNs in the hopper at the FCC.

800 MHz Rebanding—Mr. Cohen said he will be playing a more active oversight role of 800 MHz than previously. All major players are reporting progress. Sprint/Nextel has started to release spectrum which the Commission will make available on a quarterly basis. The Commission commends all licensee efforts. The FCC has issued two PNs; one provides guidance to licensees on procedures for permanent licensing of 800 MHz facilities on the post-rebanding channels that were previously authorized on pre-rebanding channels by Special Temporary Authority (STA). The other PN provides guidance on procedures for permanent licensing on 800 MHz channels that were operating under regular authorizations. On the Canadian border, negotiations have resulted in agreement to modify the existing 800 MHz arrangement to reflect the reconfigured U.S. band plan. The Transition Administrator (TA) has established a 30-month transition plan. Continued discussions are occurring with Mexico, which is more complicated because the two countries will have to alternate the current distribution of primary spectrum and some agencies in Mexico may have to relocate. Discussions will continue in March.

E911—An order concerning proposals from the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint regarding the adoption of county-level location requirements for 911, on circulation before Chairman Martin departed, remains on circulation. Because of the NET 911 Act, the Commission is required to report on the state collection of 911 and E911 fees and charges. The FCC released a PN seeking this information from the states.

Waiver Requests—The FCC has a number of waiver requests pending; some are quite complicated and require continued interaction between the FCC and applicants.

4.9 GHz—Before Chairman Martin left, the Bureau circulated an order addressing a petition for clarification filed by MA-COM, which the former Chairman removed from consideration before he left. The Commission is deciding how to proceed on this issue with the new administration.

Traveler's Information Service (TIS)—The Commission has received a waiver request from Howard County, Maryland, concerning technical issues on the TIS. There are also two TIS-related petitions seeking a ruling about the scope of permissible content. One asks about the routine transmission of information like NOAA weather information, while the other petition seeks a broader expansion and application of content rules.

Tom Sorley, Chair, Technology Committee, inquired about the timeframe for an FCC decision on 800 MHz rebanding appeals regarding an ability to reach agreement on disputes. Mr. Cohen said the FCC has delegated the authority to resolve disputes. Eight are pending; the Bureau is finalizing orders on all of those.

Stu Overby, Vice Chair, Spectrum Management Committee, asked about the status of the pending proposed rulemaking regarding wireless mics in 700 MHz. Mr. Cohen said that remains on circulation as well. The Bureau is working with the Wireless Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), revisiting what has been circulated and vetting the issue with the acting Chairman's Office.

John Powell, Chair, Interoperability Committee, asked when action on the NPTSC petition on the 700 MHz band might be expected. Mr. Cohen said he did not know, but the issue has increased priority now.

Office of Interoperability & Compatibility (OIC), Kathleen Higgins

Ms. Higgins briefed on some of the priority programs at OIC.

National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)—NIEM develops and disseminates standards and processes that improve information sharing among many government and public entities including the justice, public safety, emergency and disaster management, intelligence, and homeland security communities. OIC's Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) Distribution Element (DE) standards were recently added to NIEM's format for standards and processes. NIEM's inclusion of the CAP and DE standards will effectively reduce the time and resources required for emergency responders to exchange information.

Multi-Band Radio Acceptance Testing—On January 12, representatives from OIC and the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS) attended the critical design review, demonstration, and acceptance testing of the multi-band radio prototype at Thales, Inc. The acceptance testing ensures that the multi-band radio has basic functionality, interoperability, and compatibility. In the next phase, the radio will be delivered to various sites for additional laboratory and operational testing and evaluation. Radio testing will occur across multiple bands and modes, systems, and agencies. Six organizations will participate in the testing, including ITS, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Fire Department of New York, New York Police Department, National Interagency Fire Center, and the Boise Fire Department.

Hospital Availability Exchange Language (HAVE) and Resource Messaging (RM) Standards—In late 2008, OIC debuted two new EDXL standards, HAVE and RM. The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) introduced HAVE and RM into its suite of standards in November 2008. These are now standards that may be used and implemented worldwide, creating a unified and uniform approach to emergency response communications. OASIS has a constituency of over 5,000 participants from 600 organizations situated in over 100 countries around the globe.

The HAVE standard allows emergency responders to exchange information regarding the status of hospital resources—including bed availability, available services, capacity, and other key operational elements of the hospital. Emergency responders can access this information in the field and from emergency operation centers. RM transforms resource sharing into a more organized process by providing a set of standard information formats allowing emergency responders to request response teams, assets, or other resources for use in incident responses.

Project 25 Inter-RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) Test Tool (ITT)—The P25 ISSI ITT recently won the Department of Commerce's Gold Medal Award for Scientific/Engineering Achievement. The ITT team received recognition for exceptional ingenuity in identifying, developing, and promoting a technical solution that enables industry members to implement new interoperable communication standards. The ITT, an open-source software tool, will accelerate the development of P25 standards and the integration of non-proprietary systems, and is essential in the testing of emergency response and public safety radio interfaces.

Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)—OIC is currently working on an early warning system that will have the capability to provide the public with national emergency alerts via certain mobile devices. Congress established CMAS through the Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN) Act. Designed to ensure that a warning is received in advance of disasters, CMAS will serve as one piece of

a comprehensive, national alert and warning system and will support innovative technologies that effectively transmit geographically-targeted emergency alerts to the public via their mobile devices.

Kevin McGinnis, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO), commented that he has worked on NIEM to integrate EMS, fire, etc. with what has essentially been a justice-focused process. He said there has not been much coordination in the last year or two with communities other than in the justice area. Subsequently there have been other efforts from APCO and IJIS on an effort called the Public Safety Data Information Project, and from the Department of Health and Human Services working on hospital and pre-hospital data messaging doing other work. He is concerned that there could be a conflict among the different efforts.

Ms. Higgins said she would like to meet with other interested stakeholders to develop an approach to assemble the right players to discuss this. Mr. Powell said the GLOBAL Wireless Security Meeting had a meeting last week that also determined that it is a priority to include other public safety players in this process. Mr. Doane said he has some experience with GJXDEM and NIEM and also volunteered to work with Ms. Higgins.

Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), Chris Essid

Mr. Essid provided an update on activities at OEC.

Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training—Since the national rollout in August 2008, OEC has conducted 20 All Hazards courses, with 500 participants successfully completing the course. There are 12 additional classes scheduled between now and April 2009. When a serious ice storm hit Kentucky following the January class in that area, the new COMLs were able to put their training to work immediately. The COML Working Group finalized the Train the Trainer Course, to be available in the spring, and is also working on a communications unit awareness course that will be available online eventually.

The Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshops are providing support to states and territories to help them develop and align their plans with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). Forty-eight states have signed up and 16 workshops have been completed. The outcomes of the workshops have included action plans to prioritize SCIP initiatives, priority lists of desired technical assistance needs, action plans to create working groups for sustainable funding, and strategic roadmaps. Different states have different outcomes depending on their greatest needs, but all show real progress. The workshops have been very productive and well received.

OEC continues to provide technical assistance, much focused on governance, technology and engineering, SOPs, and training and exercises. In response to its most recent solicitation, OEC received 218 requests for TA from 50 states and territories. In one case, OEC is helping one state to develop governance and an SOP support structure. The TA team will provide information on different governance structures, decisionmaking models, best practices, and an assessment of the state's current procedures to assist in streamlining incidence response. OEC will also focus support to the Urban Areas to help them respond to Goal 1 of the NECP, to demonstrate response-level emergency communications in the Urban Areas.

OEC is looking forward to working with the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) on an Interoperability Forum to be held May 13-15 in Niagara Falls, New York.

Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), Lance Valcour

Mr. Valcour reported that CITIG currently has 350 members. The organization intends to build a structure for CITIG that is more like NPSTC's with organizations acting as the voting members in the future. CITIG's organizations have developed a joint resolution asking the government of Canada to make interoperability a priority. CITIG continues to hold regional meetings, with the next meeting to be held in Victoria next week. The regional meetings always include an invitation to a representative from the U.S., typically a statewide interoperability planning member. CITIG works closely with OEC, Standards and Technology (S&T), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and NSPTC, and has discussed bringing the OEC COML program to Canada. The NECP for Canada is very similar to the NECP developed by OEC.

CITIG has expanded its collaboration to the United Kingdom. The UK is working on "plain speak," consistent with the Canadian and U.S. plain language efforts. There are excellent synergies between the nations that enhance sharing strategies and resources or "borrowing with pride." CITIG has also started working with Australia recently.

Outreach Committee, Bill Brownlow, Chair, and Charley Bryson, Vice Chair

Mr. Brownlow reported that one of the action items from the November meeting was to help publicize the goals of the National Unified Goals (NUG) developed by the National Traffic Incident Management system. One of the goals is to encourage the use of plain language on the radio for incident management. Mr. Brownlow has initiated contact with two representatives to learn how NPSTC can assist.

Mr. Brownlow also received notice regarding the development of a potential Working Group through IEEE on WiMAX for public safety. Harlin McEwen, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), cautioned against using unlicensed spectrum for public safety purposes. Mr. Brownlow said this is an ad hoc discussion at this point.

Regional and Broadband Liaison Committee, Don Root, Chair, and Ron Mayworm, Vice Chair

Itinerant Channel Naming Working Group, John Powell

Mr. Powell reported that there have been a number of exchanges in this Working Group among agencies that are considering implementing. The Working Group is trying to ensure that the naming used for itinerant channels is differentiated from the names of the interoperability channels.

Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) Update, Chief McEwen

Chief McEwen provided an update on the PSST. The PSST expected that Chairman Martin would circulate a 3rd Further Report and Order (R&O) before he left the FCC, but that did not happen. The PSST has been told that the staff of the Wireless Bureau, PSHSB, and OET has worked to prepare a draft but it has not been seen by the other commissioners. Acting Chairman Copps is directing his attention to the DTV issues and is not willing to meet with the PSST until those issues are sorted out. The PSST has the sense that Chairman Copps seems to be open to keeping the process moving forward and that he would like to get more done on a proposed order for a new incoming Chairman, who has yet to be nominated. The PSST continues to have a lot of interest from prospective bidders and the prospect of an auction is still alive.

Chief McEwen said the PSST is trying to take advantage of the economic stimulus package and that, as Chairman, he wrote to President-elect Obama regarding a Verizon proposal to the southern governors that stated they could build out a public safety network for \$13 billion to include rural areas and some of the original more stringent requirements the PSST had established. The PSST asked for \$15 billion for a public safety broadband network. The funding would go to a trust fund for

administration by an entity such as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that would go to bidders for the build out of the public safety portion of the network. Depending on the language of the final stimulus package, there could be the ability to apply for some funding to support the PSST. Regarding the narrowbanding relocation required in 700 MHz, the PSST has no money to administer that relocation and the issue is still undecided at the FCC.

The PSST will hold its first public meeting on March 25, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the FCC's meeting room.

Regulatory Update, Bette Rinehart

800 MHz: Ms. Rinehart reported that band plans remains unresolved on the Mexican border with negotiations for Wave 4 incumbents extended until April 1, 2009, and the freeze extended until May 13, 2009. The FCC began accepting applications for the first 20 Nextel-vacated frequencies on January 28, 2009. The FCC just released a PN on procedures for modifying National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) plans in the non-border areas in rebanding Waves 1-3.

As reported by Mr. Cohen, there are two plan amendment procedures. For amendments that are rebanding related only (shifting frequencies down 15 MHz) no adjacent region concurrence is required; amendments must be filed by April 13, 2009, and there will be an expedited FCC review, with no requirement for issuing a PN. For Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) requesting additional amendments to the plan such as changing frequency allocations/allotments, technical parameters, or application filing procedures, adjacent region concurrence is required and the RPC must notify the FCC by April 13 that it plans to file a full amendment and file that amendment by June 10. These types of amendments will follow the normal FCC review process. All amendments must include a cover letter signed by the RPC Chair and referencing the original docket number.

700 MHz: On February 4, Congress passed a bill to extend the DTV transition deadline from February 17 to June 12, 2009; however, many stations have already moved. As of February 2, 2009, of the 66 TV/DTV transmitters in the U.S. affecting public safety spectrum, 6 stations are already "silent." At least one other station is operating at reduced ERP and six more stations filed applications to go silent on February 17, 2009.

700 MHz Regional Plans: Three 700 MHz regional plans have been approved since the November meeting: Region 1 (Alabama), Region 7 (Colorado), and Region 51 (Texas-Houston). There are 17 plans pending; 6 filed since November, Region 54 (Chicago area), Region 33 (Ohio), Region 6 (Northern California), Region 10 (Georgia), Region 13 (Illinois), and Region 28 (East Pennsylvania/Southern New Jersey).

National Regional Planning Council (NRPC) Update, Richard Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds reported that the NRPC is currently holding a 2-day training session in Orlando, Florida, with beginner and advanced refresher courses on the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD). There are workshops for those regions that are almost done with plans that will provide assistance towards completion. The 800 MHz RPCs are also meeting in Orlando through APCO support. APCO has been awarded the NIJ grant to support the NRPC in the future, and it is hoped that the new grant will combine funding for both 700 MHz and 800 MHz RPCs in one group.

Spectrum Management Committee, David Buchanan, Chair, and Stu Overby, Vice Chair

Airborne Video Working Group, Dave Buchanan, Chair

Mr. Buchanan said the Working Group plans a survey of agencies that are using airborne video, inquiring about their successes and problems. Most agencies use media spectrum for airborne video. The Working Group also wants to assess whether agencies are using 4.9 GHz for airborne operations under waivers .

Wireless Alerting Working Group, Jim Weichman, Chair

Mr. Buchanan said the Working Group continues to draft a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) asking the FCC to audit the two-way paging channels for usage, and, if there is un-used spectrum, to allocate it to public safety for paging. The Working Group is documenting the needs and hopes to have a draft PFR by the March meeting.

470-512 MHz Working Group, Ralph Haller, Chair

Mr. Haller reported that the Working Group has developed a draft PFR that has been circulated to the Governing Board for a vote. For the protection of digital television standards, the PFR proposes that the FCC adopt the same protection standards for the 470-512 MHz T band (channels 14-20) as it adopted at 700 MHz. The changes to rules on the T-band would expand the maximum area where land mobile is allowed from 50 miles from center city coordinates to approximately 80 miles. It would propose that different protection standards be put in place for the continued protection of analog stations at 40 db co-channel protection instead of 50 db.

Earlier protection was based strictly on mileage and required filing of waivers. The rules are obsolete and extremely conservative. The Commission faced a similar problem when it opened 700 MHz and it then adopted rules for protection of DTV stations, relaxing the analog protection to a 40 db contour instead of 50 db. Under those rules, an agency could introduce a separate showing that demonstrates the contour is protected without filing for a waiver or acquiring a letter of concurrence from the TV station. The PFR recommends those rules from 700 MHz band. There have been many waivers issued in the New Jersey and New York area to use T-band channels outside the 50 mile radius, where they have a secondary status. By increasing the by-rule distance to 80 miles, this would provide these agencies primary status, according them additional protection from new stations that might come on the air in the future.

Action Item: Mr. Haller recommended that the Governing Board vote on the PFR and move that it be filed with the FCC, asking that the Vice Chair host the vote as Mr. Haller was a primary author of the PFR. Doug Aiken, Vice Chair, NPSTC, called for a motion. Chief Leary so moved; Mr. Brownlow seconded. Approved.

Mr. Overby thanked David Eierman for his effort on the petition. Mr. Haller also recognized Mr. Eierman and Mr. Overby's hard work. Mr. Haller recommended that once filed, NPSTC should make an explanatory presentation to the Wireless Bureau, OET, and the Media Bureau at the FCC to educate them on the issue.

700 MHz Advocacy Working Group, Stu Overby, Chair

Mr. Overby reported on the DTV delay and the wireless microphone issue. Mr. Overby thanked Chief McEwen, Alan Caldwell, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and Bob Gurs, APCO, for their advocacy for public safety regarding the DTV delay.

Technology Committee, Tom Sorley, Chair, and Andy Thiessen, Vice Chair

Mr. Sorley reported that much of the Committee work has been postponed by lack of movement on 700 MHz issues. At the last Governing Board meeting, there were discussions regarding the P25 and

TETRA comparisons. Mr. Sorley submitted the recommendations, comparisons, and scope of the project to both P25 and TETRA, but representatives of TETRA indicated that the scope was too broad and representatives from P25 said the group does not have the resources to follow up on the comparison at this time. As discussed previously, NPSTC does not have the resources to pursue this either. Mr. Powell reported that the P25 Steering Committee also felt that the scope was very large and current priorities didn't allow time to address it now.

Action Item: Mr. Sorley asked the Governing Board to close the action item to provide a comparison between P25 and TETRA. Chief Leary so moved; Mr. Reynolds seconded. Approved.

In-Building Working Group, Stu Overby, Chair, and Jack Daniel, Vice Chair

Mr. Overby reported that contributions from members of the Working Group on the Best Practices for In-Tunnel Communications have all been received. The white paper was requested as a supplement to the original In-Building Best Practices White Paper. He is assembling the draft that should be circulated at the March meeting.

Technology Education Working Group, Robert Shapiro, Chair, and Steve Devine, Vice Chair

Mr. Shapiro reported that the five initial products the Working Group planned are complete and will be live on the NPSTC website shortly. The group is ready to deliver more articles, slides, and information, and is seeking input on education areas of interest for white papers and presentations in 2009.

Interoperability Committee, John Powell, Chair, Pam Montanari, Vice Chair

Mr. Powell introduced the new Interoperability Vice Chair, Pam Montanari. See her biography at www.npstc.org.

Interoperability Channel Naming Working Group, Don Root, Chair

Mr. Powell updated the group on the status of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation process of NPSTC's *Common Channel Naming Report*. There are two parts to the ANSI standard—the first part is the normative part, which defines the standard and how it was developed, and the second, the informative part, has supporting information and describes how the standard would be implemented. Changes referring to the A and the B Block will have to be made eventually, but these changes will be able to be made quickly once they are approved by ANSI. Mr. Powell is hopeful that the final document will be ready in as soon as 6 weeks.

SDR Working Group, John Powell, Chair

Mr. Powell reported that the SDR Forum meets quarterly, with the last meeting held in San Diego, California, and jointly supported with the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) Program. Decreased travel funding is an issue for the SDR Forum and they are meeting by teleconference currently.

ESF2 Working Group, Don Root, Chair

Mr. Powell reported on NPSTC's effort to provide feedback on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) new Communications Annex and to provide input on appropriate participation on the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC) Working Groups. NPSTC advised FEMA of the need to focus more on local coordination rather than at the state level in developing the RECCWGs. Recent changes of administration at FEMA have slowed this effort currently.

Charles Hoffman, FEMA, said he would like to seek NPSTC's assistance to coordinate development of local POCs and encourage more involvement with the RECCWGs. Ms. Ward said that access to the

National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX) for the secure exchange and storage of documents had been offered to FEMA but NPSTC hasn't heard back from them. Mr. Hoffman said that regional offices are linked to the FEMA network and there are IT security rules that will probably discourage the interface of NIIX at this time. Mr. Powell said that NIIX doesn't link to other websites as it is a document repository. Mr. Hoffman said the regions can use NIIX independent of the FEMA network.

Project MESA Working Group, John Powell, Chair

NPSTC will not participate directly as it has in the past, but continue to monitor Project MESA meeting activities to follow progress on this international standards effort.

COML Update

Mr. Powell provided a review of how the role of COML developed from a wildland fire incident function to an all-hazards communications leader training. The Interagency Board (IAB) Communications Committee was a big driver in expansion of the role, which got initial funding from OIC to develop the curriculum now offered today. OEC assumed funding to continue the development of the COML training and to offer that training across the country. Student prerequisites and course descriptions are available at www.npstc.org.

Chief Leary asked if there is a bridge course that would allow OEC to certify the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) COML course. Mr. Powell said the forestry community has been reluctant to make modifications to their course that would make that bridge more possible. During the Colorado fires, NWCG sent COMLs to assist who were trained only in conventional systems in UHF and VHF while the systems they needed to interface with were 800 MHz trunked systems.

GLOBAL Update

Mr. Powell reported that he had attended the Security Working Group of GLOBAL [Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative] last week. As noted earlier, the group felt that the JDXN information exchange and focus on justice and law enforcement needed to expand to other communities in fire, EMS, transportation, and hospitals.

Mr. Powell would like to send a list of all NPSTC Governing Board member names and send it to GLOBAL as possible sources of feedback from the broader public safety community. Chief McEwen said he serves on the GLOBAL Executive Steering Committee and added that he has long urged GLOBAL to expand to a greater community but funding has been an issue.

Governing Board General Business

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study

Ms. Ward provided a GAO Emergency Communications Follow-Up Study to the Governing Board. Last year the GAO interviewed several members of NPSTC for a report they are doing on the federal response to local and state interoperable communications. They have asked some follow-up questions and since NPSTC has been heavily involved in facilitating and advocating for the advancement of Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) and the National Public Safety Coordination Committee (NCC) recommendations GAO requested that the NPSTC Governing Board and Committees prepare a response to the questions posed below.

- Are there any particular recommendations that NPSTC considers the most important or key for addressing emergency communications vulnerabilities? a. If yes, which ones and why?

- To what extent have FCC, DHS, and other relevant federal agencies adopted or responded to the recommendations of the PSWAC and the NCC? a. What, if any, action remains outstanding for each recommendation?
- Would there be any value (i.e. effectiveness, accountability, transparency) in FCC, DHS, or other federal agencies tracking advisory groups' recommendations and each agencies' response to these recommendations?
- What are the key challenges that NPSTC has faced in advancing the recommendations of these two advisory groups?
- Would it be possible to get a copy of the NCC's final report(s)?

Discussion: There was general discussion on key recommendations for vulnerabilities such as proper system design up front, i.e., towers that can withstand winds and back-up power; and the need to supplement with deployables when everything fails. Also noted was the need for adequate spectrum, a nationwide broadband network, and backhaul issues. Mr. Haller added that underlying all these needs is the lack of funding for hardening, building the network, etc. To accomplish these tasks, public safety requires a relatively small amount of funding. It was agreed that the questions required some thought and that the response should include a request for funding as part of the stimulus package.

Action Item: Assemble a writing group to develop a more thoughtful response to the GAO questions. Mr. Buchan, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. Overby will work with Ms. Ward. Chief McEwen and Mr. Powell volunteered to review the response. The group will discuss the questions by teleconference next week.

IWCE Meeting

Mr. Haller announced that NPSTC will hold an informal meeting on Friday, March 20 from 1-5 p.m., in Room 219 at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE). This is an opportunity for interested persons to meet and greet NPSTC's Governing Board and learn about NPSTC, and will also be a brainstorming session for those assembled. There will be NIIX training offered in Room 219 from 11 a.m. until noon.

Executive Task Force Progress Report, Lloyd Mitchell, Task Force Chair

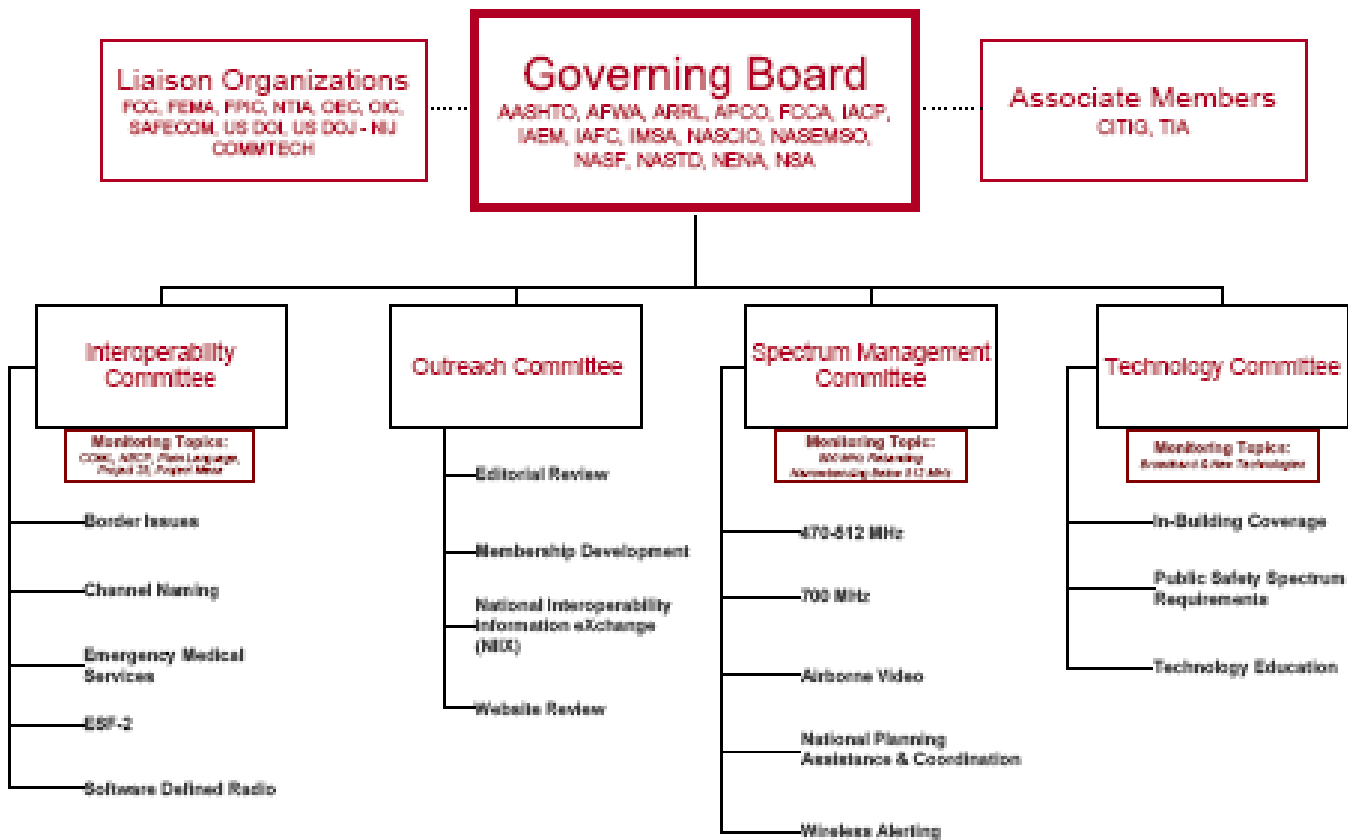
Mr. Mitchell presented the findings and recommendations of the NPSTC executive task force, created at the November 2008 Governing Board meeting to review NPSTC's mission and goals, the structure of the organization, support levels, meeting scope and meeting frequency, project priorities and resource requirements, and support options. The task force began meeting every Wednesday morning by teleconference on January 14, 2009. The task force consists of the following members: Mr. Mitchell; Mr. Sorley; Bob Speidel, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA); Paul Szoc, International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA); Ms. Ward; Mr. Haller, ex officio; Doug Aiken, NPSTC Vice Chair, ex officio; and Mr. Valcour, observer.

Committees and Working Groups: The goal for the first meeting was to review the Committees and Working Groups and determine whether they should be retained or dissolved, based on whether the Working Group would have an expected deliverable to be presented to the Governing Board and whether NPSTC should be using its limited resources for that particular Working Group. Following the task force's thorough review and discussion of each Working Group and Committee, the Committee Chairs were invited to the second teleconference to share their thoughts on the missions and deliverables of each Committee's Working Groups.

There was consensus that Working Groups that may be suspended and monitored and be reconstituted if the need arises later. For Working Groups that are dissolved, the task force recommended that Committee Chairs continue to monitor their particular issues and provide unbiased information on subjects such as Software Defined Radio or Project MESA activities to the Governing Board and NPSTC Participants. Following analysis and discussion, the task force reworked the organization chart.

Governing Board Priorities: The task force next addressed the NPSTC priorities identified by the Governing Board at the September meeting, discussing how to rank them by importance, and how much support would be needed to respond to each priority. The top priorities for 2009 were identified as:

- Border issues
- Spectrum for public safety assessment
- Outreach to public through appointed and elected officials
- 700 MHz broadband
- Narrowbanding
- T-Band [470-512 MHz] rule changes



Narrowbanding is mandated by the FCC. Additionally the Working Group addressing the T-band issues has a PFR that is ready to file and NPSTC will need to work with the FCC to move NPSTC's recommendations forward..

There was consensus that OIC has a legislative mandate to improve public safety through a comprehensive research, development, testing, and evaluation program for improving interoperable emergency communications and to evaluate and assess new technology in real world environments. As such NPSTC has been a critical component of their ongoing effort to identify gaps and focus research efforts to fill these gaps. For example, OIC is currently working with the public safety community to help develop a multi band radio designed to improve interoperability between first responders. It was agreed that the long standing relationship between NPSTC and OIC be both encouraged and strengthened. Another area of specific interest is the way that the Office of Standards and Technology could facilitate improved interoperability along the northern border between Canada and the United States. As the longest unprotected border in the world, the need to leverage technology, spectrum, and interoperability efforts runs across all aspects of NPSTC's proposed new structure, as well as that of both OIC and OEC.

There was consensus that the OEC has a legislative mandate to implement the NECP, an issue that affects operational issues nationwide. There was also a discussion of the priority to provide outreach to the public through appointed and elected officials. It was agreed that the task force should ask the Governing Board to provide a better definition of outreach and the associated deliverable.

Conclusion: To conserve resources, the task force requests that the Governing Board adopt these recommendations at the February meeting and they are implemented immediately so that staff resources can be adopted to support the recommendations. The task force has addressed immediate recommendations for the upcoming year's support. They will be moving into a future look at what is needed and methods to support NPSTC activities. The next report will be provided to the Governing Board at the June meeting in Washington, D.C.

Discussion

Mr. Mitchell said the new organization chart will indicate that NPSTC is still monitoring many other important issues such as 700 MHz broadband. Mr. Overby suggested that the second priority, "PSWAC spectrum requirements" be broadened to "spectrum requirements" with the action item to review PSWAC.

Action Item: Change the priority "PSWAC spectrum requirements" to "spectrum requirements."

Action Item: Add sixth priority, "NPSTC supports all 700 MHz initiatives, narrowband voice and broadband. Change the Working Group, 700 MHz Advocacy, to 700 MHz Working Group. NPSTC 700 Narrowband relocation and 700 broadband activities will now be included under the 700 MHz Working Group.

Mr. Powell said he did not think that the issue of SDR should be moved to monitor mode as it is very active right now, particularly in light of OIC interest and the development of the multi-band radio.

Action Item: Add the SDR Working Group back to the organization chart. Mr. Powell will report monthly on SDR activities for the OIC report.

Action Item: Change wording from "dissolve" Working Group to "suspend."

Action Item: Mr. Reynolds moved to accept the recommendations of the executive task force, with the above noted changes; Chief Leary seconded. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Haller asked for feedback via email on how well the teleconference worked to inform planning for similar meetings. Mr. Overby thanked Mr. Mitchell and the task force for their hard work. Chief Leary moved to adjourn the meeting; Chief Aiken seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Meeting Attendees

Doug Aiken
International Municipal Signal
Association

David Buchanan
Spectrum Management Committee
Chair

Willis Carter
Association of Public Safety
Communications Officials

Dennis Dura
American Radio Relay League

Ralph Haller
NPSTC Chair

Michael Hutton
Association of Fish & Wildlife
Agencies

Matt McCreary
NPSTC Support Office

Lloyd Mitchell
National Association of State
Foresters

Larry Nyberg
Telecommunications Industry
Association

Paul Szoc
International Municipal Signal
Association

Jackie Bayless
NPSTC Support Office

Chris Butts
NPSTC Support Office

Jeff Cohen
Federal Communications Commission
(FCC)

Jeanne Elder
NPSTC Support Office

Kathy Higgins
Office of Interoperability & Compatibility
(OIC)

Paul Leary
Forestry Conservation Communications
Association

Harlin McEwen
International Association of Chiefs of Police

Mike Mitkus
NLECTC Communications Technologies
Center of Excellence

Stu Overby
Spectrum Management Committee Vice
Chair

Lance Valcour
Canadian Interoperability Technology
Interest Group

William Brownlow
American Association of State
Highway & Transportation Officials

Alan Caldwell
International Association of Fire
Chiefs

Jack Doane
National Association of State
Technology Directors

Chris Essid
Office of Emergency
Communications (OEC)

Charles Hoffman
Federal Emergency Management
Agency

Chris Lewis
U S Department of the Interior

Kevin McGinnis
National Association of State Chief
Information Officers

Pam Montanari
Interoperability Committee - Vice
Chair

John Powell
Interoperability Committee Chair

Marilyn Ward
NPSTC Executive Director