

Awards, Awards, Awards: NPSTC Recognizes its Most Valuable Resources, Our Volunteers

NPSTC presents a variety of awards to its highly valued volunteers who do the “heavy lifting” that allows NPSTC to support public safety communications in the manner it does. NPSTC thanks the following organizations for supporting NPSTC awards: the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), Motorola, Harris, ICOM, American Radio Relay League (ARRL), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and NTIA’s Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR).

The **Richard DeMello Award**, presented to one individual in public safety communications who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public safety communications arena, was awarded to **Doug Aiken, NPSTC’s Vice Chair**. Doug is totally aware that one individual is not going to improve public safety and that we all need to work together and share our knowledge and experience. This is true of Doug, at a fire scene or working on the many committees he serves on. On the federal level Doug has served as a vital team member for the Nationwide Broadband System development on Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST). He currently serves on the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) as well as serving as Vice Chair for NPSTC. Doug serves on SAFECOM, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), and is frequently in Washington DC representing public safety at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). On the local and state level, Doug was instrumental in establishing the State of New Hampshire’s E-911 System, worked to establish a Statewide Interoperability Plan and is an active member of the Federation of Mutual Aid in New Hampshire. In addition Doug dedicated his life to protect our country by serving in the Air Force Reserve for many years, retiring as a Colonel.

The **NPSTC Hertz Award** was created to recognize the exceptional work of one or more individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership. The Hertz award, named in honor of Heinrich Hertz whose name denotes the scientific unit of frequency--cycles per second--is not an annual award but one that is only awarded when exceptional performance warrants it. This year NPSTC presented the award to **Stu Overby and Joe Ross** who have dedicated hundreds of hours to support the efforts of public safety.

Stu Overby is the Vice Chair of the Spectrum Management Committee and supports our FCC filings and multiple other projects. This year, he worked on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report and the T-Band Report in addition to his other work on the Spectrum Committee. He is an excellent writer, composer translator of documents, from Spectrum Committee calls into final positions for the Governing Board

Joe Ross lead the effort to develop the *Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) Follow On: Public Safety Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology*, to determine spectrum needs through 2022, and recently co-chaired the T-Band Working Group with Stu to complete an extensive look at the impact of

the T-Band giveback slated for 10 years from now. Both of these projects required an intensive compilation of data and work that ensured creditability for NPSTC.

The **DJ Atkinson Technical Award**, created in 2012 to honor DJ Atkinson's work at the NTIA's Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR), recognizes individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional technical support to NPSTC and the public safety communications community. **Andy Thiessen** works tirelessly to support public safety communications through his work at PSCR, and as NPSTC Vice Chair of the Technology Committee, and has led multiple efforts to gather user requirements for broadband over the past year. He has provided thoughtful leadership, technical knowledge, and diplomacy. Andy and his team were able to lead a very diverse group of strong individuals toward a common goal and deliver a product within a prescribed timeline. Working with both public safety and industry volunteers is never easy. Andy and his team successfully led this effort and is therefore extremely deserving of this recognition. NPSTC is proud to have Andy in NPSTC's leadership and supporting the community at great expense to his personal time and appreciate his efforts for public safety.

The **Chairman's Award** was created to recognize one individual who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership. **Chris Essid** started his public safety career as one of the original SWICs and came to his DHS position with a background in our community. He has worked to improve public safety communications and supported NPSTC throughout his journey at the US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC). His activities in broadband have brought knowledge and background to the federal partners and, with his support, the SAFECOM Program and NPSTC remain strong.

The **NPSTC Leadership Award** was created to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional personal and professional conduct. This year's award went to **David Boyd / Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)**, within the US Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate, for being a steadfast supporter of NPSTC.

Jay English. Jay comes from the public safety community and has worked diligently on Broadband Working Group activities. He is quick to step up to lead committees and a valuable asset to the work being done on the broadband requirements. Jay is involved in several Working Groups. By being on virtually all the groups he had a unique perspective and could promote and promulgate the standard approaches as they were being formulated on an ad hoc basis. This was a huge benefit since our timeline did not allow for the luxury of the group leads being able to get together and establish the approaches prior to starting the work. NPSTC thanks Jay for being a consistent contributor to these important projects.

As the chairman of the NPSTC Priority and Quality of Service (QoS) Task Group, **Trent Miller** did an excellent job guiding the group to a consensus on some very controversial and complex issues. The outcome of the group was extremely valuable to the resulting process, culminating in the promulgation of the excellent Public Safety Broadband High-Level Launch Requirements document in December 2012. NPSTC thanks Trent for supporting public safety communications.

Terry Hall has brought a breath of fresh air to the community during his tenure at APCO, and as the current president of the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials International (APCO). He has worked tirelessly to form cohesive relationships and projects and is an excellent team builder. Terry is multifaceted in his work and brings abounding energy to the community and the will to “do the right thing for public safety” no matter how difficult that may be. NPSTC thanks Terry for his leadership and work on behalf of public safety.

The SAFECOM Program is being honored to acknowledge SAFECOM’s initial sponsor, DHS OIC/Dr. David Boyd; to acknowledge the ongoing support and leadership of DHS OEC/Chris Essid; and to acknowledge the work of Terry Hall, SAFECOM Chair, and Tim Lowenstein, SAFECOM Vice Chair.

The **NPSTC Participants Award** was created to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have supported NPSTC and the public safety community on critical objectives such as achieving interoperability. Winners include:

Steve Devine has led two different task groups related to requirements for mission critical voice over broadband. These groups were largely made up of public safety practitioners, which meant that rarely could any single participant make all the calls. Steve has shown strong leadership by keeping the group members involved and informed which resulted in active participation and tangible results.

Pam Montanari has worked to support broadband and is currently engaged in the radio programming compatibility effort. She is reliable and supportive of NPSTC’s work and the community.

Bette Rinehart has been a NPSTC supporter for years. She serves as a resource for the Regional Planning Committees and is always interested in participating on Working Groups.

David Eierman has been working with NPSTC for many years. His contributions range from engineering to supporting reports with technical background. David participates and contributes on most Working Groups.

Paul Szoc has been working with NPSTC for many years and has represented us on the critical Intrinsically Safe Radio project. This project has been visible and requires coordination with many groups. Paul has done an outstanding job.

Lance Valcour. Lance is an exceptional person who was instrumental in bringing Canada to the U.S. communications community. His work has supported NPSTC’s goals, and he was key leading NPSTC’s use of social media. In years to come, his legacy will be remembered through all the successful projects he has brought to the community on both sides of the border.

Letters of recognition were also given to acknowledge individuals and/or organizations that supported NPSTC and the public safety community on critical objectives such as achieving interoperability. **American Samoa Homeland Security Territorial Emergency Communications Committee (TECC)** has been instrumental in helping the Territory of American Samoa Government in setting up an Interoperable Emergency LMR system upgrade for all the "first responders" and daily use. **Terry Bavousett, Amarillo Emergency Communications Center** is recognized for excellence in his work as assistant manager. NPSTC

also recognizes the dedicated assistance of **Kathy Mayeda and Cindy Stanley**, Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) Program, National Institute of Standards and Testing/Office of Law Enforcement Standards (NIST/OLES).