

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies American Radio Relay League 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 Emergency Number Association National Sheriffs’ Association Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group Telecommunications Industry Association American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies American Radio Relay League Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International

Forestry
Conservation
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Association
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Chiefs of Police
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Emergency
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Fire Chiefs
International
Municipal Signal
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National
Association of
State Chief
Information

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Annual Report 2009

Officers National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials National Association of State Foresters National Association of State Technology Directors National Emergency Number Association National Sheriffs’ Association Forestry Conservation Communications Association International Association of Chiefs of Police

NPSTC IS A FEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MISSION IS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International
Amateur Radio Relay League
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 Telecommunications Directors
National Emergency Number Association
National Sheriffs' Association

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group
Telecommunications Industry Association

LIAISON ORGANIZATIONS

Federal Communications Commission
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Office of Emergency Communications
Office of Interoperability and Compatibility
SAFECOM Program
U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, CommTech Program

THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL ARE GRATEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, OFFICE OF INTEROPERABILITY AND COMPATIBILITY (OIC) AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (OEC) FOR THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS VOLUNTEER PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NPSTC.ORG.



NPSTC is a volunteer federation of 15 public safety organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership. This Annual Report documents the 2009 activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups.

NPSTC is a resource and advocate for public safety organizations on matters relating to public safety telecommunications. NPSTC explores technologies and public policy involving public safety telecommunications, analyzes the ramifications of particular issues, and submits comments to governmental bodies to further public safety telecommunications. NPSTC serves as a standing forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications.

There is currently *no other forum* for all of the various public safety organizations to come together and develop consensus positions for legislative and regulatory bodies on the broad range of topics impacting public safety communications. There's an unquantifiable benefit of bringing the whole community—local and state public safety organizations, federal public safety representatives, and industry—together in a forum.

One of NPSTC's most important missions is education. Both as a collaboration of organizations and through the diverse work of our individual member organizations, information flows to and from the public safety telecommunications community, providing the opportunity for our participants to learn from others facing the same challenges and educating practitioners on policy, federal initiatives, technology, and the latest research.

NPSTC actively seeks your participation as a person interested in public safety telecommunications. As a NPSTC participant you can impact national policies of tomorrow and be a part of planning the future course of public safety communications today by being part of the debate and discussion. You will learn the most current information on the newest policies and plans for the nation. As an original source for much of the information that is critically important to professionals in the field, NPSTC also provides a conduit for the exchange of information to and from the federal organizations that make policy and provide funding for programs to the field.

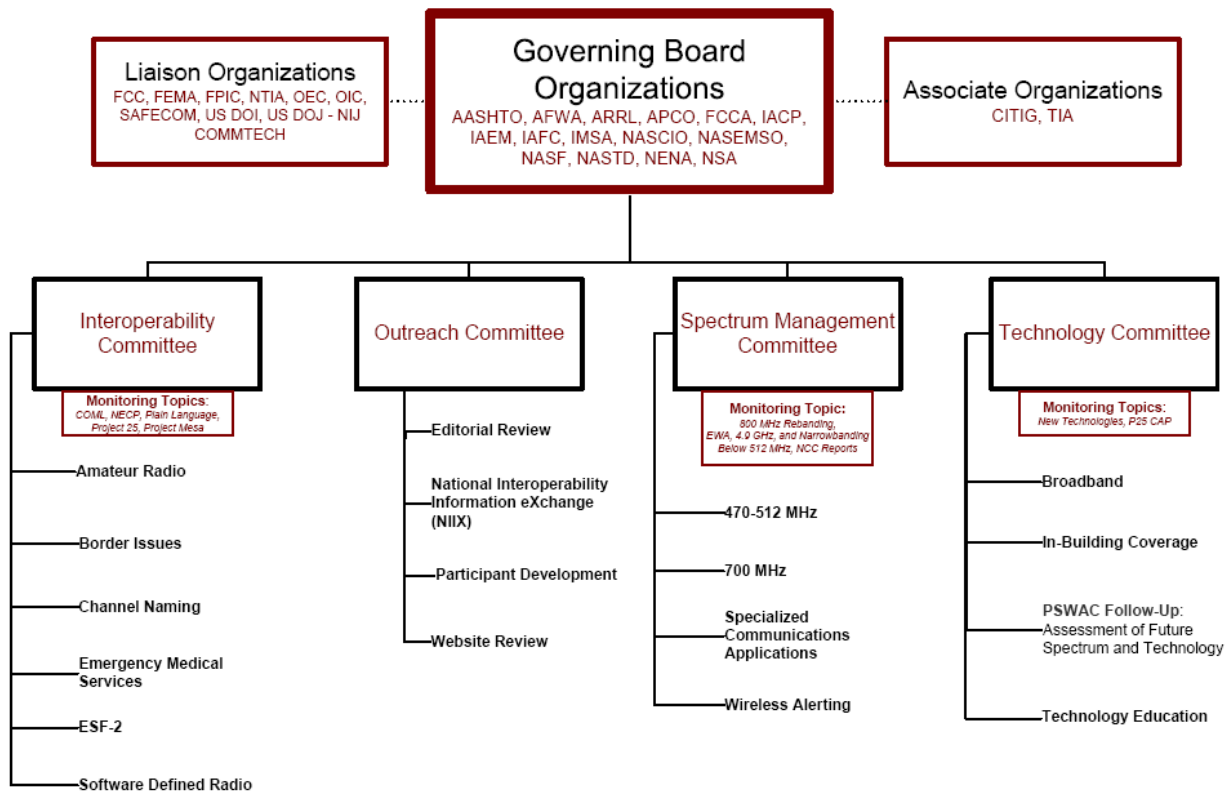
NPSTC participants are critical to its consensus process. As NPSTC seeks to understand the complex technical and policy issues surrounding many of the public safety telecommunications issues that the Council faces, the lively debate of issues from the NPSTC community and the viewpoints expressed at its quarterly meetings and listserv discussions are very important in providing as broad a base of informed input possible. The voices of NPSTC participants shape public safety telecommunications. Join NPSTC and participate in the future of public safety communications.

For more information, please contact us at www.npstc.org or call 866.807.4755.

NPSTC'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

NPSTC's Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Chairs, representing the Interoperability, Outreach, Spectrum Management, and Technology Committees. Each Committee fields a number of Working Groups. As new needs evolve and old issues are resolved, Working Groups are created or dissolved to reflect the current needs.

The Committees are responsible for conducting research, writing position papers, and giving presentations at various meetings and conferences. The Working Groups interact extensively with one another and the member organizations via conference calls and emails, but the face-to-face Governing Board and Committee meetings are critical opportunities for the expanded discussion needed to achieve group consensus. The Working Groups add knowledge and research, by reaching out to subject matter experts and developing positions for the Committee Chairs, who in turn forward those positions with their comments to the Governing Board for approval.



As of November 20, 2009

For more information on the activities and missions of the Working Groups, visit www.npstc.org.

Top Priorities

NPSTC's Governing Board and Executive Committee participates in an annual planning meeting to discuss the current year's accomplishments and identify top priorities to structure its projects in the coming year. The top priorities for 2009 were:

- Assist in Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) Implementation
- Update Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) Spectrum Requirements
- Support Border Issues
- Conduct Outreach
- Support Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) through identifying and filling technology gaps
- Focus on 700 MHz initiatives, narrowband voice, and broadband

Interoperability Committee

NPSTC's Interoperability Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize interoperability effectiveness by promoting the concepts of governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training/exercises, and usage described in the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum. Notable achievements this year are:

American National Standards Institute (ANSI): NPSTC's Common Channel Naming Report is in the process of being approved as: Candidate APCO/NPSTC ANS 1.104.1-200x: Standard Channel Nomenclature. The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO) facilitated the ANSI standards process. The comment resolution period ended at the end of 2009. NPSTC's Interoperability Committee has acted as the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to respond to and resolve the comments that have been collected by APCO.

ESF2 Working Group: Provided feedback on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) new Communications Annex and provided input on appropriate participation on the Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC) Working Groups.

Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training Support: Training sessions with meeting materials and announcements are on both the NPSTC website and listservs. A complete webpage is dedicated to the COML which includes the meeting information and COML responsibilities and critical support role within the Incident Command System (ICS).

Border Issues Working Group: NPSTC's Northern Border Task Force Chair participated in the May cross-border communications workshop in Niagara Falls, New York, co-sponsored by OEC, the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), and Public Safety Canada. The goal was to discuss the problems and develop best practices within the real problems caused by lack of spectrum on the border.

Emergency Medical Services Working Group: The Working Group and National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) and NAEMSP have authored EMS Potential

Technologies, a white paper developed by an expert panel investigating future EMS communications needs. The panel intended to present future EMS diagnostic and treatment modalities and their implications for bandwidth and other communication resources.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee reviews editorial material, monitors the web site, and engages new NPSTC participants, educating them on the structure of NPSTC and on how their participation makes a difference to public safety. NPSTC participants bring invaluable skill sets to the work NPSTC does on the national and local levels. A list of outreach activities follows the section on Regulatory Filings.

Spectrum Management Committee

The Spectrum Management Committee focuses on regulatory and technical issues regarding the availability, effectiveness, and usability of public safety spectrum on a nationwide basis. The Spectrum Management Committee works, in conjunction with the NPSTC Governing Board, to provide NPSTC's perspective on outstanding public safety issues to the FCC. Notable achievements this year include:

Technical Support for NPSTC's Regulatory Filings: See filings for complete information.

470-512 MHz Working Group: The Group developed a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) seeking new technical standards in this band, asking the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand the area where land mobile use of TV channels 14-20 (called the T-band) is allowed. The PFR proposes that the FCC adopt the same protection standards for DTV from the T-band land mobile operations on channels 14-20 as it adopted at 700 MHz. The recommended changes to rules on the T-band would expand the area where base stations could be located from 50 miles from center city coordinates to approximately 80 miles without interfering with TV reception. The current protection applied in the T-band is obsolete and very conservative.

700 MHz Working Group: When the Government Accounting Office (GAO) asked NPSTC for information on the status of Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) and National Coordination Committee (NCC) recommendations, the Spectrum Management Committee and Governing Board developed a response, including a chart that summarized the major recommendations progress as of March 1, 2009, and remaining actions needed.

- DTV Transition: As part of DTV transition, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Digital Replacement TV Translators on December 23, 2008. NPSTC submitted comments on January 12, 2009, supporting the FCC proposal not to allow digital replacement translators in the 700 MHz band. NPSTC recommended that digital translator applications not be accepted within the interference range of 470-512 MHz LMR systems as well.
- Wireless Microphones: In response to NPSTC's letter on wireless mics in 700 MHz and the potential for dangerous interference to public safety, the FCC has an open rulemaking to address wireless microphones (WT 08-166). NPSTC, APCO, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), and CTIA submitted additional clarification letters urging the Commission to act.

Specialized Communications Applications Working Group [formerly Airborne Video Working Group]: The Working Group has been in the process of developing recommendations and best practices for a

range of specialized applications including air-to-ground voice and video and bomb robot control. Though a response to a request by the State of Maryland, and recognizing this is a national issue as well, a Petition for Rulemaking was filed with the FCC asking certain channels be authorized for air-to-ground voice use.. Key issues to consider include wide-area coordination across state boundaries and avoiding co-channel interference to ground-based operations.

Wireless Alerting Working Group: Working Group representatives and others from NPSTC met with the FCC to discuss paging spectrum and the benefits for public safety, encouraging the FCC to audit the band for under utilization by the commercial carriers. NPSTC filed comments in a 900 MHz land mobile band proceeding requesting that the FCC conduct an audit of the 900 MHz two-way paging band and make a portion of the band available for public safety use.

Technology Committee

NPSTC's Technology Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize communications capabilities by facilitating the best possible utilization of current and future technologies. The Committee helps these communities to maintain a high degree of awareness of technological development, deployment, standardization, and regulation.

TETRA Project: The Committee submitted recommendations, comparisons, and scoped a project to compare P25 and TETRA standards. Representatives of TETRA indicated the scope was too broad and representatives from P25 said it did not have the resources to follow up on the comparison at this time; therefore, the Governing Board closed this action item.

700 MHz Broadband Network Requirements Task Force (BBTF): NPSTC formed the BBTF to develop a set of minimum requirements for regional 700 MHz broadband networks that would ensure future interoperability and compatibility with the proposed national public safety broadband network. The need for such minimum overarching requirements developed as waiver requests began to materialize when a number of major cities in the United States filed waivers to build regional networks, following the auction that produced no winning bidder of the D Block license in early 2008. The BBTF had 60 days to complete the challenging task of developing governance, technical, and operational recommendations for early builders.

Technical Education Working Group: A Technical Education Repository web page has been developed for the NPSTC website.

PSWAC: Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology (AFST) Working Group: The AFST Working Group, newly created in 2009, will assess the operational needs of public safety through the year 2020 and the technology and spectrum impacts of those needs as a follow-on to the PSWAC's report on public safety's needs through the year 2010. They are seeking volunteers from each public safety discipline (law enforcement, fire, EMS, transportation, health, etc.) to ensure that the report properly captures their operational requirements. They will rely on technology experts for the various systems public safety uses (land mobile radio, broadband, microwave, satellite, etc.) to translate those requirements into technical implementations and spectrum experts who can develop the models that can translate the requirements into meaningful spectrum needs and develop a plan for meeting the operational needs through 2020.

REGULATORY FILINGS

NPSTC's filings to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and advocacy for public safety telecommunications supports the vision embodied in NPSTC's first goal—to create a vision for the future of public safety communications.

Digital Television (DTV) Transition Delay Letter, January 9, 2009. NPSTC developed a joint letter to the FCC with APCO, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to President Obama calling for an exemption to the DTV postponement until June 2009 that would permit 700 MHz public safety users to continue with plans for system implementations without delays.

Comments in Response to the Commission's NPRM regarding Digital Television Translators, January 12, 2009. NPSTC submitted Comments in response to the Commission's NPRM regarding digital television translators. NPSTC concurs with the Commission's tentative conclusion that replacement translators should be licensed only on channels 2-59 and not on channels 60-69. NPSTC also recommended the Commission provide clarity on the issue that applications for digital replacement translator stations must take account of land mobile operations in the 470-512 MHz band before being filed.

Petition for Rulemaking to Amend the Land Mobile-TV Sharing Rules in the 470-512 MHz Band, February 18, 2009. NPSTC submitted a PFR to the FCC recommending that the Commission amend its rules which address land mobile/television sharing criteria in the 470-512 MHz band.

Ex Parte Communications, Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band, WT Docket No. 08-166; Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones, and the Digital Television Transition, WT Docket No. 08-167, February 23, 2009 and March 9, 2009. NPSTC, CTIA – The Wireless Association®, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), and APCO filed two letters with the FCC asking the Commission to take action to address low-power devices such as wireless microphones in the 700 MHz band.

NPSTC Comments on Proposed NTIA Guidelines to PSIC Funding. NPSTC submitted Comments to NTIA in response to the environmental guidelines proposed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) affecting certain recipients of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) funding. NPSTC believed the proposed approach was unnecessarily duplicative of established processes the FCC already has in place that apply to communications facilities, including those that will be funded by the PSIC Grant Program.

NPSTC also provided documents addressing the following issues.

High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC) Presentation. NPSTC coordinated with the State Department on the logistics for the High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC) presentation that occurred during the summer.

GAO Emergency Communications Follow-Up Study. The GAO requested a written statement from NPSTC to assist in completion of a report on interoperable communications to be submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation. Because NPSTC has been heavily involved in facilitating and advocating for the advancement of the PSWAC and the NCC recommendations, the GAO requested that the NPSTC Governing Board and Committees prepare a response to the questions noted below. NPSTC submitted its response to GAO on March 3, 2009. The response included a table which summarized the previous PSWAC and NCC recommendations, progress made and remaining actions needed.

1. Are there any particular recommendations that NPSTC considers the most important or key for addressing emergency communications vulnerabilities? If yes, which ones and why?
 2. To what extent have FCC, DHS, and other relevant federal agencies adopted or responded to the recommendations of the PSWAC and the NCC? What, if any, action remains outstanding for each recommendation?
 3. Would there be any value (i.e. effectiveness, accountability, transparency) in FCC, DHS, or other federal agencies tracking advisory groups' recommendations and each agency's response to these recommendations?
 4. What are the key challenges that NPSTC has faced in advancing the recommendations of these two advisory groups?
- Land Mobile-TV Sharing Rules in the 470-512 MHz Band. NPSTC filed Reply Comments with the FCC on May 22, 2009. The comments were in response to the PFR to Amend RM-11527 the Land Mobile-TV Sharing Rules in the 470-512 MHz Band. NPSTC was the original petitioner.
 - 4.9 GHz Correction. NPSTC developed Comments on July 14, 2009, to correct an error in the rules for 4.9 GHz regarding the following: An action to reinstate the frequency coordination exemption, which was inadvertently removed; to correct an error in the band plan; and to clarify center frequencies.
 - Comments on National Broadband Plan. NPSTC filed Reply Comments on July 22, 2009, in response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) seeking public safety feedback on a National Broadband Plan as required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
 - Ex Parte Filings on Broadband and Narrowbanding. NPSTC submitted Ex Parte filings on September 28, 2009, to document two meetings held with FCC officials, one on the 700 MHz BBTF and the other on NPSTC's concerns regarding the January 1, 2011 interim dates being applied to the VHF/UHF narrowbanding mandate.
 - Petition to Stay Interim Dates for Narrowbanding. NPSTC submitted a Petition to Stay the VHF/UHF Narrowbanding interim dates in Docket 99-87, on September 29, 2009. NPSTC believes certain interim deadlines effective January 1, 2011, will hamper public safety interoperability during the final 2 years of the transition and will unnecessarily raise costs for public safety users. As of the interim date, (1) Licensees can no longer apply for new or modification license applications that exceed 12.5 kHz or equivalent efficiency. (2) Single-mode and multi-mode transmitters that operate at an efficiency mode exceeding 12.5 kHz can no longer be

manufactured in or imported into the United States; (3) Manufacturer applications for Part 90 certifications must include a spectrum efficiency standard of one voice path per 6.25 kHz of channel bandwidth.

- Petition to Amend Rules on 900 MHz PCS Spectrum. NPSTC submitted a PFR to the FCC on October 1, 2009, recommending that the Commission amend its rules to make spectrum formerly auctioned for the 900 MHz narrowband PCS service available for public safety use.
- Comments on Broadband Waiver Requests. NPSTC submitted Comments to the FCC on October 16, 2009, in response to the Commission's Public Notice seeking input on requests for waivers to deploy 700 MHz public safety broadband systems.
- Comments on Proposed EWA Rulemaking Petition. NPSTC submitted Comments to the FCC on November 9, 2009, in response to the Commission's Public Notice seeking input on a PFR by the Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA). EWA petitioned the Commission to initiate a rulemaking that would allow new full power interstitial 12.5 kHz channels between the currently authorized 25 KHz channels in the 809-816/854-861 segment of the 800 MHz band.
- Comments to Industry Canada on Wireless Microphones. NPSTC submitted Comments to Industry Canada on November 12, 2009, in response to Gazette Notice DGTP-011-09 on moving wireless microphones and other low power broadcast equipment out of the 700 MHz band.
- Reply Comments on Interim Dates for Narrowbanding. NPSTC submitted Reply Comments to the FCC December 3, 2009, in response to Comments filed on NPSTC's Petition to extend the VHF/UHF Narrowbanding Interim Dates in Docket 99-87.
- Comments on National Broadband Plan. NPSTC Submitted Comments to the FCC on December 21, 2009, to the FCC on its National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry, Public Notice No. 26, concerning repurposing of broadcast spectrum for broadband use. NPSTC's Comments advocate protection for existing 470-512 MHz systems, as well as expanding public safety use of the band throughout the country if broadcast spectrum is repurposed.

Governing Board Meetings

- During the First Quarter 2009, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board meeting by teleconference on February 11, 2009.
- On March 20, 2009, NPSTC welcomed interested attendees at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) to an open meeting to exchange ideas and concerns, discuss current public safety telecommunications issues, and provide further information on NPSTC to those interested in learning more about the Council and its member organizations.
- NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on June 10-11, 2009.
- NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board meeting by teleconference on September 15, 2009.
- During the Fourth Quarter 2009, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board in Washington, D.C. on November 20, 2009. Also on November 20, 2009, the Governing Board conducted its Annual Planning meeting in closed executive session.

Meetings and Conferences

The Executive Director participated in the following meetings during 2009:

- CITIG and OEC regarding border issues
- Governing Board Members regarding DTV transition extension
- NIIX steering committee to develop NIIX processes
- SAFECOM Executive Committee
- OEC to discuss Communications Asset Management Collection
- GAO discussion
- OEC, Industry Canada, and the FCC regarding border Issues
- Commerce Department regarding Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) regarding grant environmental issues.
- OIC S&T Interview: Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS) regarding proposed NPSTC participation with the stakeholder group
- OIC regarding NPSTC assistance in the development of OIC curriculum for the high-level Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) Interoperability Course

International Wireless Conference and Exposition (IWCE), March 16-20, 2009: NPSTC hosted an exhibit booth, provided by the conference venue and staffed with volunteers from the Governing Board; presented a panel, titled “Current Events within the Public Safety Communications Community” on March 18; and provided a National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) training session to assist newly registered users and those seeking a refresher course. On March 20, the Governing Board hosted an open meeting, billed as a “brainstorming” session and “meet and greet” opportunity.

Tennessee Interoperability Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, March 30-31, 2009: NPSTC participated in the Tennessee Interoperability Conference at the invitation of the Tennessee Emergency Management Association (TEMA), hosting an exhibit booth and presenting on NIIX to introduce the NIIX collaboration tool and to offer recommendations on how the service may be used to assist the public safety community. Conference attendance included over 160 state and local first responders.

Weekly Executive Task Force Meetings: In November 2008, the Governing Board commissioned an Executive Task Force to conduct a critical review of 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, and reported its findings and recommendations to the Governing Board at its February and June 2009 meetings.

Common Channel Naming Meeting: On May 6, 2009, NPSTC representatives met to discuss an unresolved issue with the Common Channel Naming Report with a representative from the Department of Interior (DOI). A review of NPSTC's history and participation in this project and progress thus far, was presented, along with the expressed interest in having federal channels loaded in public safety radios for future sharing and interoperability of the services. This action was resolved and allowed OEC to complete NECP milestone 3.1.33, *"Within 6 months, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) certifies, and emergency response accreditation organizations accept, the NPSTC Channel Naming Guide as the national standard for FCC-designated nationwide interoperability channels."*

700 MHz BBTF: Following the June Governing Board meeting, the BBTF began weekly Friday meetings to further develop 700 MHz broadband wireless system requirements using the LTE technology. At the first meeting, the Chair designated three Work Groups to cover Technical, Governance, and Operations issues. Each Work Group began meeting weekly by teleconference as well with a 2-day face-to-face meeting at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder, Colorado. NPSTC's BBTF met in person with over 100 attendees present at APCO's annual conference on August 19, 2009, to finalize its report.

Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS) meeting, July 30, 2009: NPSTC's Executive Director participated in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), Command, Control and Interoperability Division's (CCI) Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS) Forum held in Crystal City, Virginia. The CMAS Forum convened key stakeholders to discuss the alerts and warnings community (including message originators, responder organizations, industry organizations, academia, and organizations representing special needs populations) to address critical issues and determine next steps for the program.

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO) Conference and Exposition, August 16-20, 2009: NPSTC conducted a panel that attracted 90 attendees and that covered NPSTC's role in current issues and topics of interest.

Narrowbanding and Interoperability, August 11 and 25, 2009: NPSTC's Chair made two presentations via conference call sponsored by DHS's OEC that provided stakeholders the opportunity to make recommendations on how OEC can enhance its services to address current needs related to FCC-mandated narrowbanding and related interoperability challenges.

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire Rescue International Conference, August 25-29, 2009: NPSTC provided NPSTC Resource Mini-CDs to be included in 10,000 registration bags, which include NPSTC and DHS technical documents, and other federal documents and public safety reports.

House Subcommittee Hearing, September 24, 2009: NPSTC members testified before the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet, at a hearing focused on three main proposals that have emerged after the unsuccessful "D Block" auction in 2008.

FCC Meeting, September 25, 2009: Three NPSTC representatives met with FCC officials on September 25, 2009. Discussions included the 700 MHz BBTF final report and key recommendations, including the process of developing recommendations and the involvement of public safety and industry professionals. NPSTC also discussed the narrowbanding transition, explaining that NPSTC fully supports the January 1, 2013, VHF/UHF narrowbanding transition end date, but also noting NPSTC concerns with the January 1, 2011 interim dates. NPSTC also discussed its draft Petition for Rulemaking on 900 MHz two-way paging and alerting spectrum, which was subsequently filed at FCC on October 1.

Meetings with Congressional Staff September 25, 2009: NPSTC representatives met with Congressional staff for the House Homeland Security Committee and the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to discuss the NPSTC Broadband Task Force initiative and report.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Communications Committee Meeting: The IACP Communications Committee held a meeting on October 4-5, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. During the first half of the meeting, two reports were given to the IACP Communications Committee, the 700 MHz BBTF and narrowbanding discussions, along with an update on NPSTC efforts.

Interagency Board (IAB) Meeting: The IAB held a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, October 13-15, 2009. IAB sets standards and works with OIC on common issues. This was a meeting of stakeholders from all disciplines in public safety, by invitation only for current practicing public safety practitioners. There are many commonalities between the IAB and NPSTC issues. The Executive Director reported on NPSTC efforts including the issues of paging spectrum for firefighters, narrowbanding and NPSTC's request for a stay of the 2011 interim dates, and 700 MHz BBTF Final Report.

Narrowbanding Webinar: On October 28, 2009, NPSTC's Chair participated in a webinar on the FCC narrowbanding mandate for systems operating in spectrum between 150 MHz and 512 MHz requirement, requiring 12.5 kHz-wide channels or equivalent efficiency by 2013.

NIIX

The National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) provides the states virtual, secure communities for sharing documents and for supporting their statewide planning documents. The NIIX tool is offered to Communities of Practice related to the mission of NPSTC, OIC, and OEC that request the creation of NIIX communities to share and store documents. NIIX activities include meeting support, website maintenance, community page development, training sessions, outreach presentations, and customer service. In addition to creating, training, and supporting many individual existing and new communities and coordinators, NIIX provided support for the following:

- Created central repository for model formal agreements (i.e., MOAs, MOUs, and SOPs) and information that enhances interstate and intrastate coordination, meeting NECP Milestone 1.1.1.
- Developed site for OEC's Statewide Interoperability Committee (SWIC) national repository.
- Created NIMS COML Training Community, pending final requirements. To be used for updated documents (e.g. the two errata sheets for the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide, samples of completed Mobile Guides), class rosters and course support material that can be distributed to all students who have completed the class.
- Discussed potential international community use of NIIX, especially for need to coordinate along borders with U.S. communities. The language standard would remain English.
- Developed Plain Language Community for OEC.
- Created communities for 700 MHz BBTF and its three Work Groups, including the Technology, Operational, and Governance Work Groups.
- Created community for the National Transit Community.
- Created communities for PSWAC: Assessment of Future Technology and Spectrum (AFST) Working Group and its three Task Groups.

NIIX Enhancements: NPSTC developed a draft Wiki plan, including a schedule for populating the new tool. A wiki is a collection of web pages connected by hyperlinks and designed to allow anyone to contribute or modify content, using a very simplified markup language. A threaded discussion (Forum) tool was integrated into NIIX on May 11, 2009. An announcement for the Forum was posted, with a training schedule on the NIIX home page. NPSTC began development of a training community to assist new users or community coordinators.

Publications

npstc quarterly: NPSTC's newsletter is posted online four times a year.

Electronic Regulatory Update: These are monthly and bi-monthly regulatory updates covering FCC activities.

Tech Brief: *Are you ready? Plan Now for Narrowbanding*, includes an FAQ, information on how to prepare, and guides readers to NPSTC's home page which includes additional information.

Article Database: NPSTC maintains an article repository that includes a searchable database by topic on NPSTC newsletter articles and articles in other publications that refer to NPSTC or are written by NPSTC Participants. There were 167 articles in that category for 2009.

Press Releases

- *NPSTC Invites Participation in National Discussion of Minimum Requirements for Regional Build-out of 700 MHz National Broadband Network, June 3, 2009.*
- *NPSTC Votes To Endorse LTE Technology for Broadband Network, June 10, 2009.*
- *NPSTC Celebrates Long-awaited Arrival of 700 MHz Spectrum for Public Safety June 10, 2009.*
- *NPSTC To Develop 700 MHz Requirements, June 12, 2009.*
- *NPSTC 700 MHz Broadband Network Requirements Task Force Meeting, August 2009*
- *NPSTC Votes to Send 700 MHz Broadband Task Force Report to Public Safety Spectrum Trust, September 15, 2009*
- *NPSTC Urges P25 CAP to Enforce Conformance Standards in Approved Labs, September 16, 2009*
- *NPSTC Governing Board Members Oppose Reallocation of Public Safety 700 MHz Broadband Spectrum, September 16, 2009*
- *Volunteers Needed for the Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group, September 2009*
- *Share What You Know with the Public Safety Telecommunications Community, September 2009*
- *Joint APCO press release, APCO and NPSTC Seek Comments on Draft Channel Naming Standard, October 2009*
- *NPSTC Presents Fourth Richard DeMello Award to Don Root, November 2009.*
- *NPSTC's Chair Ralph Haller Wins Barry Goldwater Award at RCA, November 2009*
- *NPSTC Applauds NENA's Modification of D Block Position, November 2009*
- *Volunteers Needed for the Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group, November 2009*

Articles developed for NPSTC's Home Page:

- *Commerce Asks Congress to Extend PSIC Grant Performance by Two Years*
- *NPSTC Calls DHS Document Reference Library a Big Plus for Public Safety*
- *NPSTC Chair Haller to Participate in October 28 Narrowbanding Webinar*
- *Are You Ready? Plan Now for Narrowbanding*
- *Volunteers Needed for the Assessment of Future Spectrum and Technology Working Group*
- *AASHTO Rep to NPSTC, Bill Brownlow, Elected to Serve on FCC Advisory Council*
- *CITIG Rep to NPSTC, Lance Valcour, Elected to IACP LEIM Board*
- *PSST Says Broadband IS Not Alternative to LMR Mission Critical Voice*
- *Amateur Radio Files PFR to Amend Part 97 Rules*
- *Open invitation to NPSTC member organizations to help lay the framework for Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability, and correspondence to FCC nominating candidates to serve on panel.*

NPSTC 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair, Ralph Haller
Vice Chair, Douglas Aiken
Executive Director and Founding Chair, Marilyn Ward
Chair Emeritus, Vincent Stile
Interoperability Committee: Chair, John Powell; Vice Chair Pam Montanari
Outreach Committee: Chair, Bill Brownlow; Vice Chair, Charles Bryson
Spectrum Management Committee: Chair, David Buchanan; Vice Chair, Stu Overby
Technology Committee: Chair, Tom Sorley; Vice Chair, Andy Thiessen

NPSTC 2009 GOVERNING BOARD VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

AASHTO: Bill Brownlow, George Carbonell; Phil Lazarus (June)
AFWA: Michael Hutton, Paul Leary
ARRL: Dennis Dura, Tom Abernethy
APCO, Willis Carter, Chris Fischer; Gregg Riddle, Richard Mirgon (November)
FCCA: Paul Leary, Lloyd Mitchell
IACP: Harlin McEwen, Eddie Reyes
IAEM: Richard Comerford
IAFC: Alan Caldwell
IMSA: Doug Aiken, Paul Szoc
NASCIO: Tom Jarret, Gopal Khanna; Mike Locatis (May)
NASEMSO: Kevin McGinnis, Shawn Rogers; Paul Patrick (September)
NASF: Lloyd Mitchell, Paul Leary
NASTD: Richard Reynolds, Jack Doane; Wayne Gallant (December)
NENA: Jason Barbour, Ron Bonneau; Rick Galway (November), Brian Fontes (July)
NSA: Aaron Kennard, Paul Fitzgerald

ASSOCIATE NON-VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

CITIG: Lance Valcour, Richard Finn
TIA: Bob Speidel, Lawrence Nyberg

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)** advocates transportation-related policies and provides technical services to support states in their efforts to efficiently and safely move people and goods. <http://www.transportation.org/>

The **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)** serves as the "voice for fish and wildlife" by helping to foster a deep appreciation and understanding for the public management and conservation of the natural communities that represent the diversity of North America--fish, wildlife, and their habitats. <http://www.fishwildlife.org/>

The **Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO)** is a member driven association of communications professionals that provides leadership; influences public safety communications decisions of government and industry; promotes professional development; and, fosters the development and use of technology for the benefit of the public. www.apcointl.org

The **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)** is a not-for-profit organization that promotes interest in amateur radio communications and experimentation, represents U.S. radio amateurs in legislative matters, and maintains fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among amateur radio operators. www.arrl.org

The **Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG)** brings together representatives from public safety, industry, academia and government to help shape the direction of research and development activities related to interoperability amongst Canadian public safety providers. <http://www.cprc.org/citig/>

The **Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)** was formed to promote efficiency and advancement of radio communications in support of public agencies charged with natural resource conservation. www.fcca-usa.org

The **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)** is the world's oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization of police executives, with over 20,000 members in over 89 different countries. IACP's leadership consists of the operating chief executives of international, federal, state and local agencies of all sizes. www.theiacp.org

The **International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)** is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. www.iaem.org

The **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)** is a powerful network of more than 12,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Our members are the world's leading experts in fire fighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. www.iafc.org

The **International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)** is the oldest known association of its kind in the world. Its objectives are to improve the efficiency, installation, construction, and maintenance of public safety equipment and systems by increasing the knowledge of its members on traffic controls, fire alarms, radio communications, roadway lighting, work zone traffic control, emergency medical services and other related systems. www.imsasafety.org

The **National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)** represents state chief information officers and information technology executives and managers from the 50 states, six U. S. territories, and the District of Columbia. State members are senior officials from any of the three branches of state government who have executive level and statewide responsibility for information technology management. www.nascio.org

The **National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)** is the lead national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based, universal and consistent EMS systems. www.nasemsd.org

The **National Association of State Foresters (NASF)** is a non-profit organization that represents the directors of all 50 State Forestry agencies, the eight U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Through public-private partnerships, NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment. www.stateforesters.com

The **National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD)**, Technology Professionals Serving State Government, is a member-driven organization whose purpose is to advance and promote the effective use of telecommunications technology and services to improve the operation of state government. www.nastd.org

The **National Emergency Number Association's (NENA)** mission is to foster the technological advancement, availability, and implementation of a universal emergency telephone number system (9-1-1). In carrying out its mission, NENA promotes research, planning, training, and education. www.nena.org

The **National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)**, serving law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals of the nation for 67 years, is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among those in the criminal justice field. www.sheriffs.org.

The **Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)** is the leading trade association for the information, communications, and entertainment technology industry. TIA serves industry suppliers to global markets through its leadership in standards development, domestic and international policy advocacy, and facilitating member business opportunities. www.tiaonline.org/