



NPSTC

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

Press Release

October 18, 2008

NPSTC Forms Northern Border Task Force

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) invites interested participants on both sides of the United States/Canada border to participate in the newly formed Northern Border Task Force, chaired by Terry LaValley, Radio Program Manager, State of Vermont. The Task Force will focus on operability-improving cross-border coordination and spectrum access; and on interoperability, or the steps needed to enhance cross-border communications among public safety agencies when needed.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for U.S. and Canadian public safety practitioners to work together on improving communications within the border regions," Mr. LaValley said. "The U.S. and Canada have a long history of cooperation and the establishment of the Northern Border Task Force is another example of this tradition. We are inspired by the enthusiasm displayed by the members of this group and confident that together we can make improvements through the use of innovative yet practical technological solutions."

Initially the Task Force will develop a white paper to summarize current Issues on the cross-border coordination process and spectrum access with recommendations to improve coordination, spectrum access, and cross-border interoperability in both the near- and long-term. The white paper will include recommendations for the actions required by various government agencies to implement recommendations.

Lance Valcour, who lead the national interoperability program for the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), a liaison member to NPSTC, said, "The Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group is extremely happy that, once again, NPSTC is showing leadership in the area of improving public safety interoperability. Canada and the United States have an outstanding history of working together on security-related issues. We look forward to joining forces again with the Northern Border Task Force to ensure that our ability to communicate with our U.S. partners continues to be improved both in times of disaster and during day-to-day operations along the border." CITIG will hold its Second National Voice Interoperability Workshop in Toronto, December 7 to 10. Members of the Task Force will be attending and registration is open to anyone interested in improving public safety voice interoperability. For details, please visit [CITIG's registration page](#).

NPSTC is a volunteer council of 15 state and local public safety organizations recognized by the FCC as leaders and policymakers for the broader nationwide public safety communications community. NPSTC gratefully acknowledges the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) and the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) for their support of the important work of the task force.

For more information on NPSTC, please visit [NPSTC's website](#). To learn how to participate in the North Border Task Force, contact Terry LaValley at tlavalle@dps.state.vt.us. For more information on CITIG, visit [CITIG's website](#).

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Association of Public Safety Communications Officials | Forestry Conservation Communications Association | International Association of Chiefs of Police | International Associate 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 | National Emergency Number Association
