



Celebrating  
**10**  
YEARS  
1997-2007

## National Public Safety Telecommunications Council First Quarter Report, 2007

### Member Organizations

American Association of  
State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Radio Relay League  
American Red Cross  
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  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of  
State Telecommunications Directors

### Liaison Organizations

Federal Communications Commission  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
US Department of Agriculture  
US Department of Justice  
NIJ CommTech Program  
US Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA  
SAFECOM Program  
US Department of Interior

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups for the First Quarter, 2007. NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

### Governing Board

During the First Quarter, 2007, NPSTC held its quarterly meetings on February 5-7, 2007, in Orlando, Florida. The Governing Board reviewed and approved a number of changes, appointments, and activities of the four Committees and their Working Groups, detailed below in the individual Committee reports. The Governing Board approved filings and correspondence with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), detailed below in FCC filings. NPSTC associations were pleased to welcome the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) to their Governing Board in the First Quarter of 2007.

Notable highlights during the quarter include the following coordinated responses to complex issues:

- The success of NPSTC member associations' consensus-building style that was exhibited in the Public Forum on Common Radio Channel Naming held in conjunction with the February Governing Board meeting. Hosted by the Common Channel Naming Task Group, a collaboration of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group and members of the Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee's former Common Nomenclature Working Group, the public forum solicited alternate recommendations and/or affirmation of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) Naming Scheme. More than 50 participants attended the forum with another dozen participating by teleconference. Guided by the input from the group, NPSTC members were able to develop a consensus position on a common channel naming plan that will be available for comment on the NPSTC website for 90 days following the meeting.
- The well-informed response to the complicated issues in the 700 MHz band, guided by the research, input, review, and consensus of many parties, that includes the 700 MHz band plan for wideband, broadband, and narrowband; the proposed Public Safety Broadband Trust and similar proposals; a revision of the guard band initiated by the guard band licensees and culminating in the Broadband Optimization Plan (BOP); and the proposal brought forward by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the 9th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to WT Docket 96-86.

- NPSTC representatives input into the agenda, panels, and materials for the Statewide Planning Workshop held in Los Angeles, California, on March 21 to 23, 2007. The Workshop was hosted by NPSTC, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), and the National Governors Associations (NGA). Invited representatives from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and Washington, D.C., participated in this workshop on technical assistance for statewide planning and the statewide plan criteria.

### ***Presentations***

The following presentations were made at the Governing Board and Committee meetings at the February meeting in Orlando, Florida.

- Montana's Governor Bill Schweitzer addressed meeting participants, discussing interoperability and thanking the Council and their federal supporters for providing input to the federal process on first responders' needs. The Governor spoke highly of the value of consensus in a forum like NPSTC, saying he strongly supports the work the Council and its members do.
- Andy Mudra, OIC, DHS, reported on the release of the SAFECOM Baseline Survey Report in early December 2006, grant guidance, and other documents from OIC.
- Pam Montanari, Pinellas County, Florida, updated NPSTC on the continuing work in the Pinellas County 4.9 GHz testbed. Pinellas County has agreed to share their user requirements and best practices with the User Needs Committee for P34.
- Dr. Rob Stafford, Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS), reported on ITS tests of the user experience in 4.9 GHz with 802.11j technologies.
- Emil Olbrich, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES), reported on ITS testing focused on the FCC's recommended plan to allocate 6 MHz of paired spectrum, or a total of 12 MHz, for nationwide public safety broadband use.
- Tom Stroup, SquareLoop™, made a presentation on a geographically targeted alerting software-based system that relays messages to mobile network devices such as phones, PDAs, and laptops.
- Marilyn Ward, Executive Director, briefed the group on plans for the Council's 10th anniversary and the year-long celebration expected for this "federation of organizations." As part of the anniversary celebration, the Council is updating its public image. Ms. Ward unveiled several design choices of colors, logos, and layouts for the Governing Board to review and approve. The new colors and logo will give NPSTC publications, including letterhead, presentations, advertisements, Annual Report, and the newsletters, an updated, bolder look. During 2007, the new look will include the phrase "10 Years of Progress | 1997 – 2007."

### ***Action Items***

At the February Governing Board meeting, NPSTC member organizations took action on the following items.

- Approved the mission statement of the Broadband Interoperability Working Group as requested by the Interoperability Committee.

- Approved the transfer of the Common Nomenclature Working Group from the RPC Committee to the Interoperability Committee, to be called the Radio Channel Naming Working Group, as requested by both Committees.
- Approved the comments of the Second Report of the Technical Working Group (TWG); approved ongoing support to the TWG; and endorsed the Broadband Optimization Plan (BOP) as requested by the Spectrum Management Committee.
- Approved request that NPSTC make appropriate filings asking that a procedure now in the rules for 800 MHz interference mitigation and coordination be placed in the rules for the 700 MHz band also as requested by the Spectrum Management Committee.
- Approved filing on the 9<sup>th</sup> NPRM as requested by the Spectrum Management Committee.
- Approved the Amateur Radio Working Group's mission change to review existing integration between public safety and amateur stations in emergencies; including technical, operational, regulatory, and training considerations; and explore common concerns, such as interference sources as requested by the Technology Committee.
- Approved correspondence to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) reflecting the Governing Board's decision not to file an amicus brief to the FCC regarding ARRL's Broadband Over Power Lines Appeal.
- Approved the request that Marilyn Ward provide testimony to the United States House of Representatives' Science and Technology Directorate to provide input regarding first responders needs.
- Approved formal support of its Vice Chair, Chief Harlin McEwen's representation on behalf of NPSTC member organizations' interests in his testimony to the United States Senate on February 8, 2007, representing NPSTC and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO).
- Approved the development of a position paper that spells out parameters, issues, and solutions for interoperability to be used as a template for testimony on Capitol Hill.
- Approved the following documents— revisions to its Charter to reflect the addition of NASCIO; “boilerplate” language; the NPSTC Fourth Quarter Report; the Annual Planning Meeting Report, September 2006; a written process for replacing a Committee Chair; and an orientation package for new member organizations.
- Approved the logos, colors, and designs of NPSTC's new branding package.

### ***FCC Filings and Regulatory Issues***

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC filed the following documents:

- An ex parte letter February 22, 2007, addressing NPSTC's support of the 700 MHz Technical Working Group's Second Report. The letter endorses the proposal of guard band licensees that public safety be afforded additional spectrum in the 700 MHz band.
- An ex parte letter February 23, 2007, addressing the position of Verizon Wireless relating to the guard band licensee proposal.

- Comments February 26, 2007, in response to the FCC's 9th NPRM, Docket 96-86, regarding the implementation of a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band.
- Comments, March 12, 2007, in response to the FCC's 9th NPRM.
- An ex parte letter, March 14, 2007, addressing the Broadband Optimization Plan.

## **Executive Committee**

During the First Quarter, the Executive Committee (EC) and the Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss program planning and future meetings. The EC met monthly via teleconference.

### ***Meetings***

**IWCE Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 27-30.** The International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) has become a major public safety conference where all industries and communications professionals come together to share thoughts and ideas on wireless communications technologies. The Council's participation at IWCE is critical, particularly when vendors make statements that are contrary to the needs of public safety. The particular focus of IWCE this year was new technologies and pending legislation and regulation impacting public safety wireless broadband.

NPSTC members reached out to the public safety community through personal contact, panels on which representatives participated, and through a panel session hosted by NPSTC on State Level Public Safety Interoperability Coordination. The Interoperability Committee Chair served as the moderator for a session entitled, Commercial Networks as a Substitute for Private Networks, and NPSTC members participated on a panel entitled, Point-Counterpoint – Public Safety's Wish List and Technology Reality. The Executive Director and other staff also assisted for several hours at the OIC booth in the Exhibition Hall.

**FCC and OIC meetings, Washington, D.C., March 12-16.** NPSTC leadership met with the FCC and OIC programs the week of March 12, 2007, to discuss the 9th NPRM, discuss the Council's accomplishments, and meet the new Director of the Office of Emergency Communications. NPSTC representatives participated in a meeting with the Public Safety Homeland Security (PSHS) Bureau held in Washington, D.C. The invitation was extended for the Council to represent public safety on a national level. Clarification was provided regarding the BOP, the necessity of a Common Radio Channel Naming for interoperability radio frequencies, and its involvement within the Canadian and Mexican border issues.

### ***Publications and Website***

During the First Quarter, the Executive Director wrote an article for *APCO Bulletin* on the Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning Meeting. NPSTC will provide a column to APCO each quarter. The SIEC Chair wrote an article on common channel naming for *Mission Critical* magazine. The January issue of *MRT* magazine included an article on in-building issues, in which the Chair was quoted. The Council's objections to elements of the public broadband safety network proposed by the FCC appeared in *Homeland Security – Daily Wire*, on March 1, and in *Washington Technology* – “FCC Public Safety Network Plan Found Wanting.”

Positive comments were received from the FCC regarding the look and content of the information provided in the *npstc spectrum*. The Commission is referring their staff to NPSTC articles for background on current issues and has been distributing this publication as a valuable resource. A participant Editorial Task Force was created to review the newsletter and other documents prior to publication.

With the expansion in participants and distribution efforts, a new bulk mailing system was obtained for the electronic publications and other mailings. Interest in the federation and credibility is increasing daily.

The Council developed an outreach package that includes the *npstc spectrum*, an organization chart, a report on outreach statistics, and a new document which reflects the Council's efforts in a year-at-a-glance format.

NPSTC's website has improved daily with many new electronic features to facilitate easy registration to meetings and will now include a suggestion box and tools to allow greater ease in searching. A web page was created to accept comments on proposed common channel names through May 20, 2007, for the Common Naming Task Group. A Website Review Team was created to improve the functionality, look and feel, and user friendliness of the NPSTC website.

### ***Other Issues***

NPSTC and its members are monitoring the work of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee, which develops standards on safety devices used by firefighters. The Technical Committee has announced that it will expand the scope of the standards committee to include portable radios and issues such as the effect of temperature on the device.

In January 2007, NPSTC received a letter from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department thanking the Council for its June 2006 support in favor of the Hennepin County waiver request to implement a 700 MHz wideband data public safety system. The Sheriff said that without the support of NPSTC members, they would have had a more difficult time receiving the FCC's approval for the narrowband licenses for the first phase of their 700 MHz regional wireless data project.

## **Interoperability Committee**

The Interoperability Committee oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, Project MESA, Software Defined Radio, Data Interoperability, Common Radio Channel Naming, and Broadband Interoperability.

### ***New Items***

During the First Quarter of 2007, the Governing Board approved the mission of the Broadband Interoperability Working Group.

### ***Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group***

The SIEC Working Group made large strides toward achieving a common channel naming plan for the interoperability channels with its well-attended public forum in February 5, 2007, hosted by the Common Channel Naming Task Group. A collaboration of the SIEC Working Group and members of the RPC Committee's former Common Nomenclature Working Group, the Task Group hosted a public forum to encourage recommendations on common naming. The public forum had solicited alternate recommendations and/or affirmation of the NCC Naming Scheme that was developed by the FCC's Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC).

Alternative recommendations were submitted by six states and regions. Following lengthy discussion of the recommendations, the group achieved consensus on a revised version of the NCC channel naming plan, with the exception of Wisconsin, which noted that not much had changed from the NCC recommendations.

The task group recommended that this Report be submitted to the Governing Board for acceptance and, pending acceptance, be placed on Public Notice for a 90-day comment period. Following editing and the

addition of footnotes, the Final Report would be placed on the agenda for adoption at the NPSTC June meeting. It is suggested that for spectrum below 512 MHz, as agencies narrowband, they adopt the new nomenclature; in the 800 MHz band, as agencies reband; and, in the 700 MHz band, as systems come on-line, at their earliest convenience. The task group is also suggesting that grant guidance include changes in channel naming as a funded item.

### ***Data Interoperability Working Group***

Due to the focus of resources on broadband and the depth of research and work on 700 MHz, the tasks of this Working Group have been on hold during the First Quarter. The Data Interoperability Working Group, which is differentiated from broadband data issues, will examine interoperability between different data systems of various speeds, broadband, and wideband.

### ***Software Defined Radio (SDR) Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the SDR Working Group continued to interface and participate in the SDR Forum's Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS-SIG), where the FCC's 9th NPRM was a focus of attention and study. NPSTC representatives participated in SDRF's meetings in San Diego, California, from January 15-19.

The PS-SIG is completing a report on a cost model to provide a framework for quantitative cost tradeoffs analyses. This will be an ongoing project that will follow with a trade study to provide a sense of how the model will work with a real question. Additionally, the PS-SIG is doing a study on cognitive radio applications to public safety communications, working on cognitive use case development, through public safety scenarios, using very detailed After Action Reports from the London bombing. Finally, the PS-SIG is working on a "meta language" for cognitive radio and supporting technology development in that area.

The Working Group Chair reports that representatives from the Department Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), CommTech; NPSTC; and OIC are taking lead roles in the SDRF's markets, regulatory and technical areas, including security issues. In conjunction with CommTech staff, another meeting occurred with Harris Corporation representatives to discuss potential field tests of their AN/PRC-152 SDR-based portable radio covering the 30-512 MHz bands and now supporting the conventional Project 25 waveform, as well as legacy public safety waveforms (FM analog, etc).

In the area of standards, SDRF activity includes supporting International Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) P.1900 standards being developed for advanced radio concepts and cognitive radio.

### ***Project MESA Working Group***

In the First Quarter, the Working Group, which monitors both the work of Project 25 (P25) and Project MESA, reported progress on both standards' efforts. At the January P25 meeting, the Inter-Subsystem Interface (ISSI) standards were approved. The ISSI approval, a Congressional priority, ensures interoperability between different manufacturer's radio systems. General Dynamics conducted successful tests between an EADS and M/A-COM system, allowing the portable systems to work over an ISSI. TIA and the P25 Steering Committee have made a strong commitment to compliance testing. TIA has also committed to support the NIST effort to develop a compliance guideline and to ensure uniformity in the testing of all manufacturers.

Project MESA, as reported in the past, has had concerns with industry participation that had been resolved at an earlier meeting in France. At a meeting in Washington, D.C., there seemed to be a move back to that earlier recalcitrance, but due to the intervention of a NPSTC member, the manufacturers have again renewed their commitment, and Project MESA continues to work toward consensus.

### ***Broadband Interoperability Working Group***

The Broadband Interoperability Working Group developed a formal mission statement during the quarter: “To investigate, report on, and propose solutions that deliver network and application broadband interoperability to the NPSTC Governing Board.”

The Working Group is collecting requirements and will evaluate marketplace capabilities versus the requirements, and make a recommendation to the Governing Board on 700 MHz broadband networking standards. A web-based questionnaire developed to understand the expectations and potential uses of the 700 MHz broadband spectrum and the general public safety data requirements was sent to the NPSTC mailing list in late January 2007. NTIA/ITS have also reached out to the vendor community to begin the testing process for technologies that may meet public safety requirements and have agreements with multiple vendors for providing equipment to test.

### **Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee**

The RPC Committee oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: 800 MHz Rebanding Support, National Plan Oversight Committee (NPOC), and Software Tools and Training.

#### ***New Items***

During the First Quarter, the Governing Board renamed the Common Nomenclature Working Group, calling it the Radio Channel Naming Working Group, and approved the transfer from the RPC Committee to the Interoperability Committee.

The RPC Committee worked with staff to begin development of the National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC) to assist the regional planners with adjacent state concurrences and dispute resolution. Under the National Coordination Committee (NCC), the FCC suggested this unfunded committee be developed to assist planning in the 700 MHz band; however, until this time, there has been no other forum of public safety associations like NPSTC available to provide that service to the local users.

The RPC Committee held a teleconference in late March to discuss the governance of CAPRAD and to develop a draft document sent to the chairs in each region for review and comment. Once approved by the RPC regions, this document will become a proposal to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) as a recommendation for CAPRAD governance to be overseen by a NPSTC panel and its Advisory Team. The CAPRAD Advisory Team would oversee operational recommendations provided by each RPC regional chair through each respective RPC region.

### ***800 MHz Rebanding Support Working Group***

The First Quarter activities of the 800 MHz Rebanding Support Working Group occurred in coordination with APCO’s 800 MHz Alert program, which has created a semi-monthly newsletter with the Transition Administrator (TA), and which has published four issues to date. The Working Group, led by APCO, has created a survey with questions for those who have rebanded already to create a mentoring database that will be used to assist agencies in upcoming waves.

### ***National Plan Oversight Committee (NPOC) Working Group***

The NPOC Working Group was created to address the role of a committee earlier created by the FCC’s NCC. The main purpose is to resolve disputes between the regions regarding 700 MHz plans. The Working Group’s mission, goals, and policies are in development. Input was obtained from the four FCC Coordinators on the analysis and model needed for evaluating applications on interference.

### ***Software Tools & Training Working Group***

The Software Tools and Training Working Group will continue to offer the very well received Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) training, first offered at the November Governing Board meeting in 2006. In addition to CAPRAD training, the Working Group offered and will continue to offer sessions on TIA TSB-88 Based Frequency Coordination for RPCs and Managing Narrowband, Wideband, and Broadband Technologies. The wideband/broadband coordination training is not offered in any other venue and will assist all public safety users when developing their regional plans for the new 700 MHz frequencies to avoid interference on channels.

In addition to the training, NPSTC's website will soon have a template for the 700 MHz plans that provides plug-and-play text for common issues that other regions have already addressed. It includes the NCC material and sections from well-written plans. Currently being edited, the template should be to the Governing Board for approval in the near future and then available on the website.

### **Spectrum Management Committee**

The Spectrum Management Committee oversees the activities of the following Working Groups: Broadband/Wideband, Border Issues, 700 MHz Advocacy, and Spectrum Below 512.

#### ***New Items***

The Governing Board approved the comments of the Second Report of the TWG that requested a procedure now in the rules for 800 MHz interference mitigation and coordination be placed in the rules for the 700 MHz band also, and endorsed the Broadband Optimization Plan (BOP). The comments were to be in the form of *ex parte* comments to the 8th NPRM and will also be referenced in the response to the 9th NPRM. The Governing Board approved the provision of ongoing support to the TWG.

The Governing Board approved a filing on the 9th NPRM, noting that it wants to file in opposition due to the lack of funding, the inadequate spectrum to make a public/private partnership work, and the concern that the network will not meet public safety needs of universal coverage, diversity, and redundancy built into it, but, at the same time, conveying it's position in a positive manner.

#### ***Broadband Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the focus on 700 MHz; band planning; the guard band licensees' proposal; the use of wideband, broadband, and narrowband in 700; the FCC auction; and the many proposals on the table continued to dominate. There were a number of different issues occurring simultaneously, some mutually exclusive, many confusing for users, and all still unresolved at the end of the quarter.

Initially the Council communicated with the FCC requesting that broadband channels be added to the wideband option in the 700 MHz band. It was felt that the wideband option should remain to meet the need of agencies that might choose to use that and also because there is not enough field experience to dictate the efficacy of broadband use only.

NPSTC members are also on record supporting the allocation of an additional 30 MHz for a nationwide public safety broadband trust. After much research and technical analysis, the Council is on record supporting the proposal of the guard band licensees, the BOP developed by the collaborative TWG. In March, NPSTC members responded to the FCC's 9th NPRM, noting its objections and concerns.

#### ***700 MHz Advocacy Working Group***

The 700 MHz Advocacy Working Group worked closely with the Broadband Working Group during the First Quarter. One of their tasks was to develop an overview and clarification of the issues in 700 MHz,

and provide specific analysis of the FCC's proposal in the 9th NPRM to enhance public safety's understanding of these complex issues.

### ***Border Issues Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the Border Issues Working Group have continued to gain recognition for public safety's needs and concerns about interference and service during the 800 MHz rebanding process on both borders. Canada has filed some draft regional plans and there has been no action with Mexico.

The State Department met with NPSTC member APCO's representatives, who will have a voice in their advisory council. The State Department has also requested the names of people on the New York /Canada borders to include their voices as they work on these issues. The Spectrum Management Committee received documentation from the State Department regarding agreements that had been signed impacting the border. These documents were posted on the NPSTC website with the calendar of future events.

### ***Cognitive Radio Working Group***

The Cognitive Radio Working Group intends to investigate the application of cognitive radio and SDR to public safety. There have been limited resources to apply to this Working Group due to funding and time commitments. The Working Group has also been waiting release of the SDRF's PS-SIG report, at which time they will evaluate technologies and cognitive sensing techniques and how they support public safety. This Working Group has also provided support to the SDR Forum.

### ***Other Issues***

Although APIC and the 800 MHz rebanding effort are not Working Groups, the Spectrum Management Committee monitors their activities.

**APCO Project 25 Interface Committee (APIC) Activities.** At the fall meeting of APCO Project 25 Interface Committee (APIC's) Broadband Task Group, Motorola and M/A-COM provided updated proposals to represent more current standards. Those two proposals are out for comment until February 21. Interested public safety practitioners should contact APIC to review the materials. With a greater depth of participation, the results will be more valuable. APIC will hold a February 23 conference call to seek clarification on comments received up to that point. APIC has also captured user requirements to create compare and contrast protocols.

**800 MHz Rebanding Update.** The 800 MHz TA released additional reconfiguration guidance on January 9, 2007, providing clarity on various aspects of the reconfiguration process in an effort to make the process as seamless as possible for all those affected. The newly released guidance is available in its entirety on the TA's website at <http://www.800TA.org>. The TA recently updated its Mutual Aid and Interoperability Fact Sheet. This fact sheet outlines the steps that the TA recommends licensees complete as part of the planning process to ensure that no organizations or groups of users are missed during reconfiguration, to generate specific interoperability requirements, and to coordinate interoperability solutions to preserve public safety communications during reconfiguration.

NPSTC members, some who were part of the original group urging adoption of the Consensus Plan, have continued to meet with the FCC weekly to alert them to problems and slowdowns in the process of rebanding. In January, as a result of these meetings, the FCC stated that 800 MHz public safety licensees engaged in rebanding may disclose or exchange information with other 800 MHz public safety licensees regarding the terms of Frequency Relocation Agreements and Planning Funding Agreements negotiated with Sprint Nextel Corporation.

## **Technology Committee**

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

### ***New Items***

During the First Quarter of 2007, the Governing Board approved the Amateur Radio Working Group's request to review existing interoperation between public safety and amateur stations in emergencies, including technical, operational, regulatory, and training considerations, and explore common concerns, such as interference sources. It will report to the Technology Committee, which will appoint the Working Group Chair and members. Deliverables will be periodic reports and recommendations.

### ***Amateur Radio Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the Amateur Radio Working Group was reinstated as a Working Group. In late 2006, the Governing Board determined to dissolve the Working Group due to inactivity but the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), asked that the Working Group be reinstated, making a case for the contribution that it can make to the federation.

The ARRL also asked for support in the form of an amicus brief supporting the ARRL's court appeal on the issue of Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL). The Governing Board decided not to file a brief, citing the skill of the lawyers working on behalf of ARRL.

### ***Security Working Group***

The Security Working Group is pursuing release of security documents developed by the GLOBAL Working Group that would be valuable to public safety.

### ***Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Working Group***

The VoIP Working Group is monitoring practitioners and industry on VoIP issues. Last August a roundtable was held to develop consensus as to how VoIP is used by public safety. During the First Quarter, the second session of that meeting was held in February with a focus on the land mobile environment.

### ***In-Building Working Group***

During the quarter, the In-Building Working Group (IBWG) met by teleconference and in person to clearly define the value propositions this group will pursue. The group has also included interference in tunnels and problems at entrances to subways. A proposed white paper is in progress. The Working Group may also develop a basic Q&A on the issues in addition to the white paper that will eventually be available on the NPSTC website. The January issue of *MRT* magazine included an article on in-building issues, in which the Chair was quoted.

### ***Surveying Equipment Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the Surveying Equipment Working Group investigated the status of a petition asking the FCC to allow government surveying operations to use frequencies in the Industrial/Business Service. The petition, submitted to the Commission in August 2006, is still pending. Because the petition probably falls under the jurisdiction of the Wireless Bureau rather than the Public Safety Bureau, it may have been delayed because of the Bureau's restructuring. The Working Group will investigate the status of the petition.

### ***Public Safety Interface to Emergency Alert Systems Working Group***

During the First Quarter, the Emergency Alert Systems Working Group monitored other efforts that could be leveraged or offer partnership opportunities. NPSTC Governing Board member, Kevin McGinnis, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO), is serving on a newly created EAS advisory group developed by the FCC, and the Working Group will monitor activities through his participation.

### **Future NPSTC Meetings**

The Governing Board will hold its next quarterly meetings on June 11-13, Denver, Colorado; September 10-12, Washington, D.C.; and November 14-16, Atlanta, Georgia.