



**NPSTC**

*National Public Safety Telecommunications Council*

*npstc*

**2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

Celebrating  
**10**  
YEARS  
1997-2007

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



## Who We Are



### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)  
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO)  
American Red Cross (ARC)  
American Radio Relay League (ARRL)  
Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)  
International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)  
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)  
International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)  
National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)  
National Association of State Foresters (NASF)  
National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD)

### LIAISON ORGANIZATIONS

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA)  
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
    Federal Emergency Management Administration  
    Office of Interoperability & Compatibility  
U.S. Department of Interior  
U.S. Department of Justice  
    National Institute of Justice, CommTech Program

## Leadership Message

### NPSTC CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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This year NPSTC celebrates *10 Years of Progress | 1997-2007*. You'll see that phrase on our publications this year celebrating this milestone. All I can say is "WOW!" NPSTC's Executive Director, Marilyn Ward exclaims. "Who ever thought that a few of us meeting would have the fortitude to make it work as a volunteer council?"

"For years, the representative bodies of public safety communications operated in their own 'stovepipes.' The issues were discussed, directions were developed, and positions exposed based on the individual services," says NPSTC's Vice Chair Douglas Aiken, representing the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA). "There was no vehicle to develop a unified public safety position. From the establishment of NPSTC, that all changed." The key is NPSTC's consensus-building style of decisionmaking. "NPSTC works cooperatively to analyze technical and practical problems and come to a consensus position," Harlin McEwen, NPSTC's Vice Chair, representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), says.

Alan Caldwell, representing the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), agrees, "The major accomplishment of NPSTC was to gather disparate groups together, some who had been publicly at odds and focus technical as well as policy resources on advancing public safety telecommunications. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Council (PSWAC) was the only effort combining public safety in September 1996. That was a good experience and set the stage for NPSTC. Cooperation is the key to success and having volunteers agreeing to work very hard because the results are so important for police, fire, and EMS," he adds.

Adds NPSTC's Chair, Vincent Stile, "NPSTC is important because there is a tremendous need for a technical group to advocate for the needs of first responders and public safety. NPSTC has grown from an ad hoc group to a formidable group that is now recognized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress."



**"WOW! WHO EVER  
THOUGHT THAT A FEW OF  
US MEETING WOULD HAVE  
THE FORTITUDE TO MAKE  
IT WORK AS A VOLUNTEER  
COUNCIL?"**

**MARILYN WARD,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
NPSTC**

## WHAT NPSTC DOES

- ◆ NPSTC is the only volunteer council of all major public safety associations that facilitates an open dialog and exchange of information on critical public safety telecommunication issues.
- ◆ NPSTC is actively engaged in helping to secure and protect spectrum for states and localities including 700 MHz for wide area voice and data, 800 MHz rebanding, continued VHF and UHF availability, and 4.9 GHz for on-site broadband.
- ◆ NPSTC provides comments to the FCC on critical public safety issues based on the consensus of its 14 member associations, representing over 250,000 public safety responders.
- ◆ NPSTC has liaisons with the federal government that ensure feedback to and from practitioners and policymakers.

NPSTC is currently working on policies and issues surrounding the following important public safety wireless communications areas:

- ◆ Effective spectrum management and deployment
- ◆ Common radio channel naming
- ◆ Broadband and data interoperability
- ◆ Statewide Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs)
- ◆ 700 and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs)
- ◆ Communications issues along the borders
- ◆ In-building interference
- ◆ Software Defined Radio (SDR), Cognitive Radio (CR), and Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
- ◆ Digital Television (DTV) transition
- ◆ Standards
- ◆ Amateur radio
- ◆ Wireless alerting
- ◆ Surveying equipment spectrum and technologies
- ◆ Emergency alerting systems

## FIRST RICHARD DEMELLO AWARD

**PRESENTED:** Chief Harlin McEwen, a public safety communications advocate who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public safety communications arena, was the first winner of the Richard DeMello award, presented at the Annual Radio Club of America Dinner in New York City, New York on November 17, 2006.



**“NPSTC IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY THAT MY ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS. THE ISSUES FACING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TODAY ARE SO NUMEROUS THAT NO SINGLE ENTITY COULD MANAGE ALL OF THEM. IN ADDITION, THE IMPACT OF OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE IS FAR GREATER IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THAN EVER BEFORE.”**

**CHIEF DOUGLAS AIKEN,  
IMSA, VICE CHAIR, NPSTC**



Harlin McEwen

### 700 MHz BAND PLAN AND BROADBAND ISSUES BIG IN 2006

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**NPSTC recommended that the FCC make changes to the 700 MHz band plan that would allow agencies the flexibility to use both wideband and broadband.** As the public safety mission expands, high-speed wireless data networks are essential. The challenges facing public safety cannot be met without broadband technology and the spectrum capacity it needs. NPSTC believes that public safety should be able to deploy government-owned or -managed next generation high-speed wireless data services that deliver not only secure text messages, but documents, photos, diagrams, and streaming video. Data such as these are being delivered to the public today by cell services. Unfortunately public safety cannot rely on commercial services because they are costly and often not reliable or available in public safety situations.



**“NPSTC MEMBERS HAVE WORKED IN VARIOUS WAYS TO HAVE THE 700 MHz SPECTRUM BECOME AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC SAFETY. EACH ONE OF US NEEDS THE SPECTRUM FOR OUR AGENCIES.”**

**VINCENT STILE,  
NPSTC CHAIR**

During 2006 and spilling over into 2007, there were a number of important issues in the 700 MHz band that are unresolved at this writing. Both Congress and the FCC will make decisions that affect the ultimate outcome of the band. During the First Quarter, NPSTC spent a great deal of time studying potential recommendations that would add broadband channels to the wideband option in the 700 MHz band. NPSTC felt that the wideband option should remain available to meet the need of agencies that might choose to utilize wideband and also because there is not enough field experience to dictate the efficacy of broadband use only.

When the guard band licensees proposed an alternative restructure of the band, NPSTC became part of a Technical Working Group to study the issues that needed to be addressed, including 700 MHz spectrum planning that had already occurred in Canada, equipment already in the field, and the cost issues before this restructuring could be possible. At the same time, NPSTC's Governing Board began to research the viability of a proposal to build a nationwide broadband network. Referred to as the Public Safety Broadband Trust (PSBT), it was proposed that the FCC reallocate 30 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band spectrum slated for auction for a nationwide, interoperable broadband network that would be built by the private sector to public safety specifications and shared by both.

In late December, the FCC issued its 9th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) WT Docket 96-86, which proposes to use 12 MHz from the 700 MHz wideband block for the creation of a public safety broadband network, with one national provider. While there is nothing explicit in the 9th NPRM that precludes the ability to do wideband, it does contemplate using the spectrum for a broadband network.

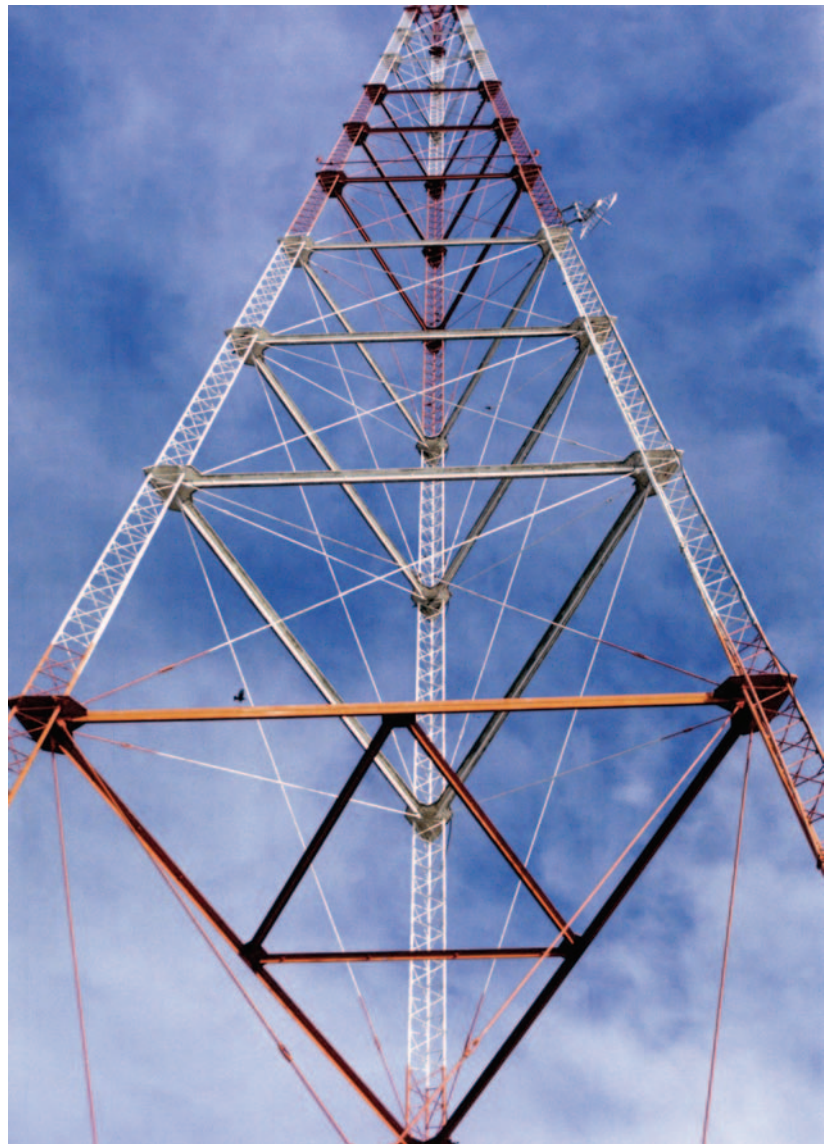
## UNRAVELING THE TOWER OF BABEL: NPSTC TAKES LEAD ON COMMON CHANNEL NAMING

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In 2006, NPSTC **strongly recommended that the common interoperability channel naming scheme** that was developed by the FCC's Public Safety National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and included in their final recommendations to the FCC should be required for public safety agencies in the United States. NPSTC noted that the lack of a common nomenclature and the corresponding lack of immediate communications capability is a significant impediment to public safety's ability to respond to multi-agency incidents. NPSTC believes that standardized channel naming will make a tangible difference in public safety interoperability.

In November NPSTC's Governing Board chartered a Task Group to solicit input and conduct a Public Forum in with the intent to develop a consensus of public safety officials on a standard channel naming scheme based on the 2003 Common Channel Nomenclature recommendations of the NCC. A solicitation for input was issued via Public Notice in early December 2006.

During 2006, NPSTC publicized and promoted the NCC scheme, communicating with and surveying the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) and the State Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs) to measure the current usage level of the NCC scheme and to determine what naming scheme, if any, is being used in each state. One of the most frequent objections to adopting the NCC scheme that NPSTC has heard is that licensees cannot afford the time or money to reprogram their radios just to change the display name. The current 800 MHz reconfiguration process presents a unique and cost-free opportunity for all National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) licensees and users to adopt the NCC scheme while reprogramming or replacing their user radios. NPSTC requested the support and assistance of the 800 MHz Transition Administrator (TA) in publicizing and promoting the NCC's common naming scheme for the NPSPAC interoperability channels as part of the 800 MHz reconfiguration process.



## ON THE BORDERS: NPSTC PROVIDES COLLECTIVE VOICE NORTH AND SOUTH

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**In June, the public safety telecommunications community expanded its reach to the United States Department of State.** Representatives of NPSTC, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), the border states, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the FCC participated in an important, first-time State Department meeting, laying the groundwork for telecommunications input from public safety to the State Department on border issues and other issues of importance to emergency response.

The initial meeting focused on the issues surrounding 700 MHz, 4.9 and 5.9 GHz bands, VHF below 512 MHz interference, 800 MHz rebanding, and mutual aid on the border. Since the initial meeting, other meetings and discussions with the State Department have occurred focusing on specific issues and proposed solutions.



The 800 MHz rebanding process underway in some areas of the nation has heightened attention on how the mutual aid channels will be affected on the border, particularly the interoperability impact when one area is in a different wave and another is in a different wave. There is significant difference between protocols on the Canadian and Mexican borders. In Canada, the spectrum is shared and coordinated, providing more frequencies to work with, but limited by the fact that Canada is also working in those frequencies. Any change the U.S. makes in the band structure, must be made in Canada as well. The first steps towards improving public safety telecommunication coordination on November 17, 2006, when a U.S.-Mexico Protocol to share spectrum in the 700 MHz band was signed.

Also in 2006, as part of a special meeting of the Border Issues Working Group held at NPSTC's June 2006 Governing Board meeting, there was a vigorous discussion regarding the importance of local and state input to the FCC on their specific challenges on the north and south borders. Following the meeting, NPSTC drafted a letter to the Department of State and the FCC, conveying NPSTC's position that an ongoing relationship between public safety users and those representing U.S. interests will produce meaningful agreements that advance shared goals.

# FCC Filings

“WE LEARNED THIS MORNING THAT THE FCC HAS GRANTED US NARROW-BAND LICENSES FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF OUR 700 MHZ REGIONAL WIRELESS DATA PROJECT. AS YOU KNOW, THIS HAS BEEN A CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROJECT SINCE WE FIRST FILED LICENSE APPLICATIONS IN APRIL OF LAST YEAR.

DURING THIS PROCESS WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY VALUABLE SUPPORT FROM YOU AND WE APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH! THE NARROWBAND APPROVALS WILL SATISFY OUR NEEDS UNTIL THE SYSTEM IS UPGRADED, SCHEDULED FOR LATE 2008 OR EARLY 2009. GIVEN THE “SHIFTING SANDS” RELATING TO THE WIDEBAND INITIATIVE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FACE MORE HURDLES AS OUR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!”

JOHN D. GUNDERSEN  
 ASSISTANT RADIO  
 COMMUNICATIONS  
 MANAGER  
 HENNEPIN COUNTY  
 SHERIFF’S OFFICE  
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

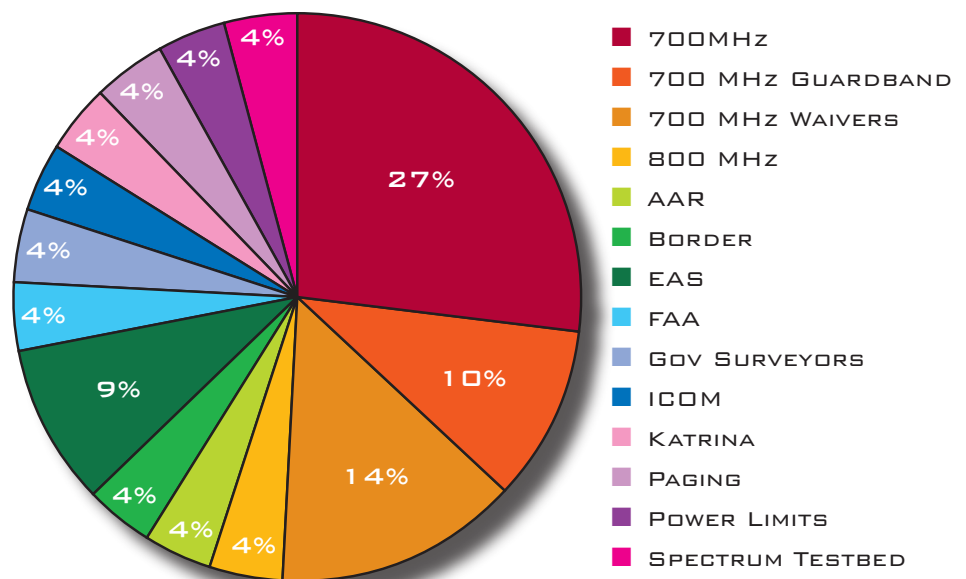
## NPSTC coordinates technical input into policymaking.

In 2006, NPSTC filed 24 comments and ex parte communications with the FCC. Issues surrounding the 700 MHz band clearly dominated. “The technical filings to the FCC that lay out the needs of public safety are the most important accomplishments NPSTC has achieved,” states Glen Nash, Chair, Technology Committee, “Many of the proposals of NPSTC can be found in the FCC rules—the best example is the 4.9 GHz band.”

Ralph Haller, representing the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), agrees. “NPSTC provides a unified response for the public safety community to FCC rulemaking items and other regulatory issues,” he says. “The primary benefit is being able to come to consensus on major issues with other public safety entities and then relying on NPSTC to prepare the filing with the FCC. Not having to prepare individual comments to the FCC saves FCCA considerable time and money.”

NPSTC’s filings have focused heavily on issues in the 700 MHz band as demonstrated in the chart below, but have also covered a wide gamut of issues important to public safety telecommunications. For docket numbers and to review filings and associated materials, visit [www.npstc.org/fccpositions.jsp](http://www.npstc.org/fccpositions.jsp).

## RANGE OF FCC FILINGS AND EX PARTE COMMENTS IN 2006



### **700 MHz**

Ex Parte addressing broadband and regional flexibility with technical analysis	2/6/2006
Waiver request to use channels in 700 MHz band, New York State	3/28/2006
Comments on FCC's 8th NPRM addressing broadband and wideband	6/6/2006
Waiver request to allow region wide system in 700 MHz band, Hennepin County, MN	6/30/2006
Reply comments on 8th NPRM	7/6/2006
Comments on 700 MHz guard band	10/23/2006
Comments on National Capital Region (NCR's) request to establish 700 MHz band broadband network	10/30/2006
Reply comments on 700 MHz guard band	11/10/2006
Comments supporting Public Safety Broadband Trust	11/29/2006
Ex Parte letter endorsing Broadband Optimization Plan	12/12/2006
Reply comments to Cyren Call Petition for Rulemaking (PFR)	12/14/2006

### **800 MHz Rebanding**

Ex Parte letter recommending structure for general category channels	11/18/2006
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### **900 MHz for Two-Way Paging**

Comments supporting waiver request to use 900 MHz for two-way paging, Richmond, VA	9/12/2006
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### **American Association of Railroads (AAR) Application and Petition**

Comments opposing AAR proposal to combine all licenses into one national license	1/26/2006
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### **Border Areas**

Ex Parte letter addressing unresolved spectrum issues on southwest border	4/3/2006
Letter to State Department describing challenges to public safety on both borders	7/11/2006

### **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

Comments on need for EAS system capability for state and local emergencies	1/23/2006
Reply comment in matter of review of emergency alert system	2/23/2006

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**

Comment on revision of rules addressing notification requirements	9/5/2006
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### **Government Surveyor Use of Itinerant Channels**

PFR proposing that rules be amended to provide access to government surveyors	8/23/2006
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### **ICOM PFR**

Comments supporting ICOM's PFR to allocate certain 150 MHz frequencies	2/27/2006
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**“THE ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTION WITH THE FCC AND OTHER REGULATORY GROUPS IS SO IMPORTANT. NPSTC HAS BECOME A RECOGNIZED GROUP TO GO TO FOR FEEDBACK AND INPUT TO REGULATORY FILINGS.”**

**RICHARD REYNOLDS,  
CHAIR, RPC COMMITTEE,  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE TELECOMMUNICA-  
TIONS DIRECTORS  
(NASTD), GOVERNING  
BOARD MEMBER**

### **Katrina Panel Recommendations**

Comments on recommendations from Katrina Panel on communications

8/7/2006

### **Power Limits in Adjacent Services**

Reply comments on proposed changes in measurement of radiated power limits

1/17/2006

### **Presidents Spectrum Sharing Testbed Initiative**

Comments to FCC and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on spectrum sharing testbed

7/10/2006



## Meetings, Panels, and Conferences

One of NPSTC's goals is to educate public safety practitioners, leaders, and appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues. NPSTC representatives often speak and participate in outreach panels to share information and the public safety perspective on complicated policy and technology issues.

### NPSTC EDUCATES ON PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Association of Public Safety Communications Officials- International (APCO) Winter Summit	Orlando, FL	January 22-25
Software Defined Radio (SDR) Forum Board of Directors	Orlando, FL	January 22-25
US DHS, Office of Interoperability & Compatibility, SAFECOM	Washington, D.C.	March 22-24
FCC Webcast Reorganization Participation	Washington, D.C.	March
Pinellas County Florida 4.9 GHz Project Team	Florida	March
ICOM and Lucent meeting on broadband	Washington, D.C.	March
International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) and RPC Colloquium; meetings with National Institute of Justice (NIJ); Cyren Call	Las Vegas, NV	May 14-19
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)	Hartford, CT	May 20-25
NIJ/DOJ Interoperability Summit	Washington, D.C.	May 24-26
International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)		July 24-26
APCO	Orlando, FL	August 7-12
NIJ/DOJ Critical Incident Technologies	Atlanta, GA	September 6-8
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)	Dallas, TX	September 15
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)		October 2-7
Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)	Gettysburg, PA	October 4
Heritage Foundation	Washington, D.C.	October 4
U.S. State Department	Washington, D.C.	October 5
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)	Boston, MA	October 13-17
Public Safety Alliance	Washington, D.C.	December 5-7
FCC Chair Meeting on 700 MHz	Washington, D.C.	December 8

### PUBLIC SAFETY FEEDBACK TO FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Vetted US DHS, Office of Interoperability & Compatibility SAFECOM's version 2 of the Statement of Requirements (SoR)

Reviewed and requested background information on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Spectrum Request for Information (RFI)

Reviewed NIJ's CommTech Program

Participated in the Interoperability Summit in Austin, Texas sponsored by the Office of Community Policing Services (COPS).

Met with the Texas Sheriffs and with the Transition Administrator (TA) about border issues.

Co-sponsored statewide planning with the National Governors Association (NGA), supported by SAFECOM

Worked with DHS on interoperability scorecard.

Participated in the SAFECOM Emergency Response Council (ERC).

### PUBLICATIONS

Quarterly newsletters: Published 64 articles in 2006, an increase of 48 articles over 2005's 16

Online bulletin: Four issues published with monthly publication in 2007

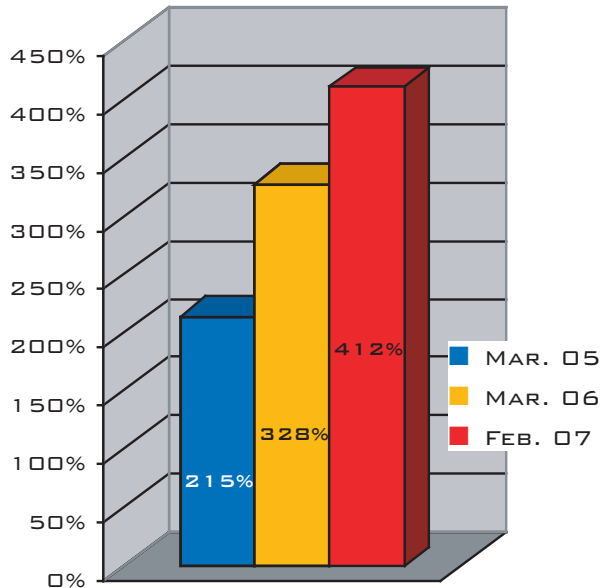
Quarterly reports and Annual Report

Trade publications: Articles in Mission Critical, APCO's Public Safety Communications, Law Officer, IMSA Journal

NPSTC communicates its messages on policy, technology, and research to practitioners and policymakers via the website, listservs, and publications as well as through conferences and panels. The total participation on the listservs grew by 328 percent from March 2004 to March 2006. Downloads of material from NPSTC's website have grown a whopping 7,000 percent, increasing from 2,046 hits in August 2005 to 143,464 in February 2007. In 2001, NPSTC published three articles, a number that rose to 72 in 2006.

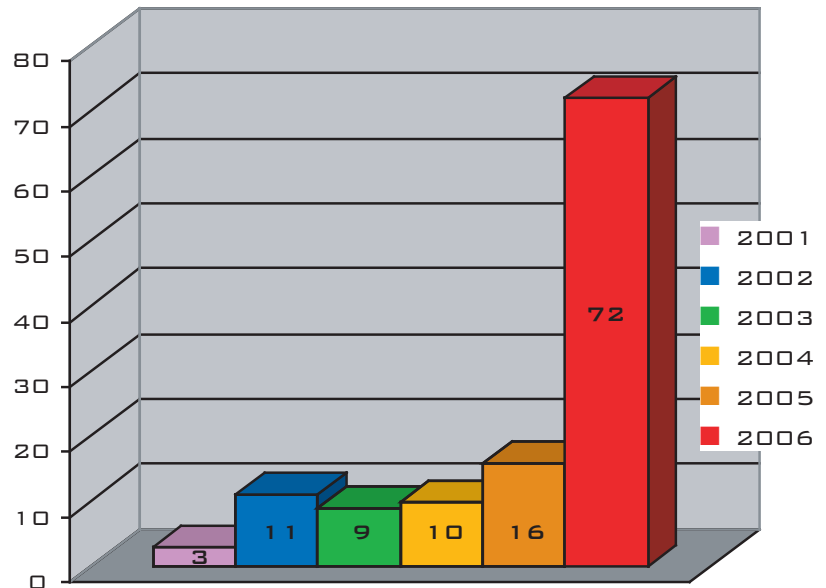
**LISTSERV GROWTH PER YEAR**

NPSTC's listservs have consistently added participants, growing by 328 percent from March 2004 to March 2006.



**ARTICLE VOLUME**

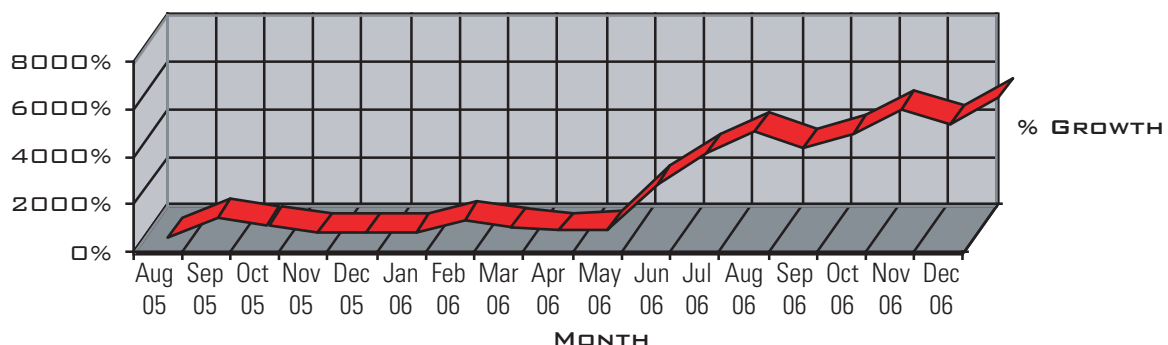
NPSTC's outreach through articles on public safety telecommunications has grown exponentially.



Yearly by 1st Qtr	Participants	Interop	Spectrum Mgmt	Tech	RPC	Listserv	% Growth	Total Percent Growth
Mar-04	78	25	26	22		151	100%	100%
Mar-05	149	61	58	56		324	215%	215%
Mar-06	210	96	74	71	44	495	153%	328%

**WEBSITE GROWTH**

Downloads of material from NPSTC's website are up over 7,000 percent.



## *Committees and Working Groups*



NPSTC's Executive Committee comprises a Chair, two Vice Chairs, and the four Committee Chairs, representing the Interoperability, Regional Planning Committees, Spectrum Management, and the Technology Committees. The officers must be employees of a public safety or public service organization or a recognized organization that represents these entities.

Each Committee fields a number of Working Groups. The Committees, generally through their Working Groups, are responsible for conducting research, writing position papers, and giving presentations at various meetings and conferences at the request of the Governing Board. The Working Groups interact extensively with one another and the member organizations via conference calls, listservs, and emails, but the face-to-face quarterly 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.

There were changes, additions, and deletions in NPSTC's Committees and Working Groups in 2006. As issues are resolved and the tasks of the Working Group end, a Working Group may be dissolved. Conversely, as new issues arise, new Working Groups can be created by a Governing Board vote to focus on and research legislation, FCC filings, or education to the field.

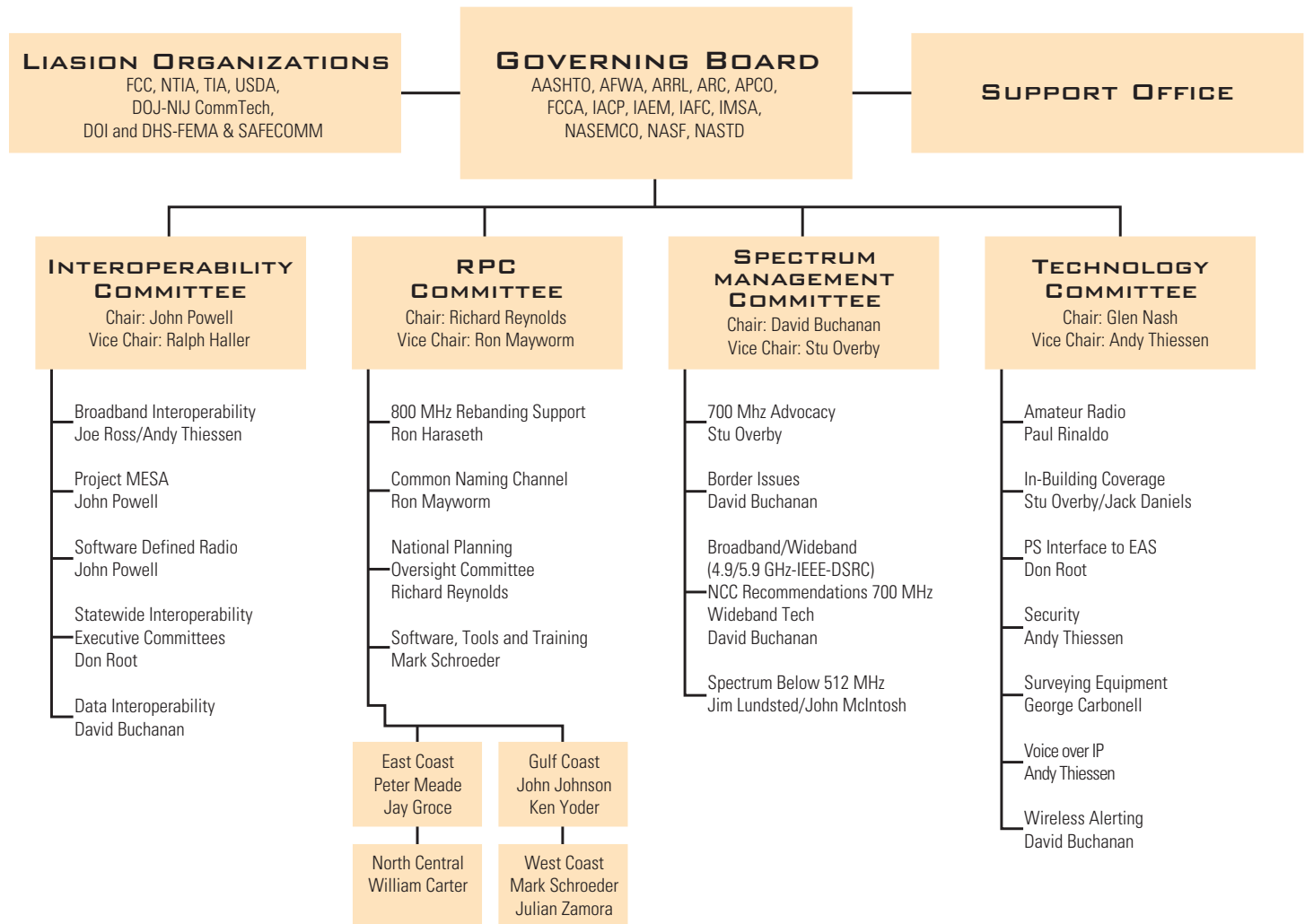
**NPSTC added five new Working Groups in 2006**, two to the Interoperability Committee—Broadband Interoperability and Data Interoperability. The RPC Committee added two Working Groups—the National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC) and Software, Tools, and Training; the Spectrum Management Committee rolled a number of issues handled by former Working Groups into one overarching Broadband/Wideband Working Group; and the Technology Committee added two new Working Groups—In-Building Coverage and Public Safety Interface to Emergency Alerting Systems. The Technology Committee changed the names of the Paging Technologies Working Group to Wireless Alerting and removed the Broadband Over Power Lines from the title of the Amateur Radio Services Working Group to reflect updated objectives. During 2006, the 700 Wideband Technologies, formerly under the Technology Committee, moved to Spectrum Management.

For more information on the specific activities and missions of the Working Groups, visit [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org).

# Organization Chart



# NPSTC



## *Interoperability Committee*

The NPSTC Interoperability Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize their interoperability effectiveness by promoting the concepts of governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training/exercises, and usage described in the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum.

The Interoperability Committee supported six Working Groups in 2006, disbanding two and adding two new Working Groups. Added in 2006 to the existing **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)**, **Project MESA**, and **Software Defined Radio Working Groups**, were the **Broadband Interoperability and Data Interoperability Working Groups**. The **System Interconnect Working Group**, focused on facilitating the licensing and deployment of technologies utilizing cross-banding and interconnection techniques to enable public safety interoperability, completed its objective to generate a white paper on gateway devices. The **International Telecommunications Union Working Group** was also disbanded with its responsibility to monitor ITU activities moved to the Software Defined Radio (SDR) Working Group through its participation in the SDR Forum. The Governing Board created the new Broadband Working Group to research broadband



applications and standards. Likewise, the new Data Interoperability Working Group will research applications and standards for data interoperability.

In 2006, the Governing Board created a new Working Group to research broadband applications and standards.

The SIEC Working Group formed a task group with the RPC Committee's Common Nomenclature Working Group to develop common naming for the interoperability. The SIEC Working Group also worked with SAFECOM and the National Governors' Association to plan a 2007 Statewide Planning Meeting.

The SIEC Working Group further expanded the naming concept by creating a plan for statewide or regional names, using FEMA's regional structure.

**NPSTC fully participates in the important development of public safety telecommunication standards.** NPSTC's members provided engineering and operational feedback on version 2 of the Statement of Requirements (SoR) when requested to provide public safety feedback by DHS's SAFECOM program, worked with TIA on standards development, worked on Project 25/Project 34 standards development, and participated in the international standards efforts of Project MESA.

**NPSTC has ensured that public safety has a strong voice in the development of new technologies including Software Defined Radio (SDR) and Cognitive Radio.** These technologies are vitally important for public safety, both to enhance interoperability and spectrum efficiency and utilization. NPSTC representatives serve in leadership roles in the SDRF. In 2006, SDRF's Public Safety Interest Group released a report on SDR Technology for Public Safety.

## *Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee*

The NPSTC Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee was created to meet the specialized needs of the RPC community. The goals of the NPSTC RPC Committee are to solicit RPC's input on needs analysis and get their perspective on issues that concern them; to establish interest in participation in NPSTC meetings; and to establish ways and means for successful outreach of information to RPCs.

In 2006 the Committee supported four Working Groups and four Regional Chairs, adding two new Working Groups, the **National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC)** and **Software, Tools and Training** to the existing **Common Channel Naming**, **800 MHz Rebanding Support**, and **Funding Working Groups**.

In 2006, the Governing Board was an advocate for funding to help support RPC interests, encourage participation in NPSTC meetings, and to assist in the development of their 700 MHz regional plans. The NPSTC RPC funding is provided by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), through the Texas Sheriff's Office, managed with assistance from the NPSTC RPC Committee.

**In 2006, the Committee hosted RPC training on Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) and sessions on TIA TSB-88 Based Frequency Coordination for RPCs and Managing Narrowband, Wideband, and Broadband Technologies.** Twenty-three representatives from 15 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico received the hands-on computer training, joined by almost 50 other interested public safety participants. This well-received training is crucial for the coordination of the new 700 MHz band and use of CAPRAD. 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. This training will be offered at the quarterly Governing Board meetings.



**In 2006, the Committee created the NPOC which will resolve disputes between the regions over 700 MHz plans.** Committee membership will include the four frequency coordination bodies, the RPC Regional Chairs, and others. The NPOC will have an inter-regional dispute resolution panel who will be selected on a case-by-case basis and chosen from regions not involved in the dispute.

As noted above, the **Common Channel Naming Working Group worked closely with the SIEC Working Group** to address common channel naming, including gathering input from all the RPC's, developing a letter asking the TA for assistance as the 800 MHz rebanding was occurring, and planning for the 2007 Public Forum.

## *Spectrum Management Committee*

The NPSTC 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.

In 2006, the Spectrum Management Committee supported four Working Groups, **700 MHz Advocacy**, **Border Issues**, **Spectrum Below 512 MHz**, and greatly expanded and renamed the **Broadband Working Group** to **Broadband/Wideband**, which encompasses 4.9/5.9 GHz/IEEE/DSRC, NCC Recommendations, and 700 MHz Wideband Technologies.



**The Broadband/Wideband Working Group's tasks and challenges seemed to grow a little more every quarter.** As noted in the beginning of this report, there were four issues that required constant and evolving attention throughout the year. In the First Quarter, the Working Group worked diligently to develop a new band plan that would accommodate both broadband and wideband, addressing policy and technical issues and issues on mandated standards or not. By the Second Quarter, Cyren Call's proposal for a PSBT led to renewed affirmation of the great value the 30 MHz to-be-auctioned spectrum in 700 MHz could provide to public safety and initiating a new direction for the Working Group.

At the same time, the guard band licensees began floating their own proposal, asking for consideration of a completely different restructuring of the band. From this request, a special task group developed that eventually supported a new plan, the Broadband Optimization Plan. And, as the year ended, the FCC issued its 9th NPRM.

Other issues also focused on the 700 MHz band were undertaken by the **700 MHz Advocacy Working Group, which began to refine its mission**, following Congressional approval of the long-awaited 24 MHz of 700 MHz spectrum for public safety.

Border Issues including the 700 MHz band plan changes, issues associated with 800 MHz rebanding on the borders, and interference concerns with Mexico led to a **special Border Issues Working Group meeting and contact with the Department of State and the FCC on behalf of state and local public safety.**



## Technology Committee

The NPSTC Technology Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize their 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.

In 2006, the Technology Committee supported eight Working Groups. In addition to continuing to support the **Amateur Radio, Security, Voice over Internet Protocol, and Surveying Working Groups**, the Committee disbanded two Working Groups whose work was completed—**NCC Recommendations and Narrowbanding Below 512 MHz**, added two new Working Groups, **In-Building Coverage and Public Safety Interface to Emergency Alerting Systems (EAS)**, and expanded **Paging Technologies to Wireless Alerting**.

**In 2006, the Surveying Equipment Working Group filed a PFR asked that government surveyors be allowed to use frequencies in the Industrial/Business Service.** The amendment to the FCC rules would allow state and local government surveyors access to modern survey technology and equipment, specifically Global Positioning Systems, that is otherwise unavailable to government surveyors.



The re-named **Wireless Alerting Working Group** wrote to **Project 25** to ask that **P25 include an alerting function as an optional feature of P25 subscriber units.** The continued availability of this function is critical to public safety as systems transition to narrowband operations.

The Technology Committee fielded a task force to vet the DHS Statement of Requirements (SoR) Version 2.

The **In-Building Working Group** expanded its mission to promote the availability of in-building and in-tunnel communications in ways that do not interfere with critical operations.

## *An Open Invitation*

Your voice can become part of the collective voice of public safety telecommunications when you become an active participant in NPSTC. NPSTC's ongoing dialogue on national public safety telecommunication issues affects your organization daily. NPSTC's Governing Board is made up of representatives of each of the 14 Member Organizations. You may participate in the meeting via an open toll-free teleconference line, or throughout the year on our active listservs and teleconferences.

For more information, please contact us at  
NPSTC@highlands-group.com or call 866.807.4755.



# Leadership

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Executive Director and  
Founding Chair**

Marilyn Ward

**NPSTC Chair**

Vincent Stile

**NPSTC Vice Chair**

Douglas Aiken

**NPSTC Vice Chair**

Harlin McEwen

**Interoperability Committee**

Chair, John Powell

Vice Chair, Ralph Haller

**Regional Planning Committees  
(RPC) Committee**

Chair, Richard Reynolds

Vice Chair, Ronald Mayworm

**Spectrum Management  
Committee**

Chair, David Buchanan

Vice Chair, Stuart Overby

**Technology Committee**

Chair, Glen Nash

Vice Chair, Andy Thiessen



## GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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**AASHTO**, William Brownlow, Alternate: George Carbonell

**AFWA**, Jim Lusted, Alternate: Ralph Haller

**APCO**, Wanda McCarley, Alternate: Ron Haraseth

**ARC**, Jay Ferron

**ARRL**, Paul Rinaldo, Alternate: Tom Abernethy

**FCCA**, Ralph Haller, Alternate: Jim Lundsted

**IACP**, Harlin McEwen, Alternate: John Powell

**IAEM**, Jim Weed

**IAFC**, Alan Caldwell, Alternate: Marty Bercovici

**IMSA**, Douglas Aiken, Alternate: Paul Szoc

**NASCIO**, Tom Jarrett, Alternate: Gopal Khanna

**NASEMSO**, Kevin McGinnis

**NASF**, Paul Leary, Alternate: Ralph Haller

**NASTD**, Richard Reynolds, Alternate: Glen Nash

## Member Organizations

NPSTC Welcomes New Member, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.



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. [www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org)



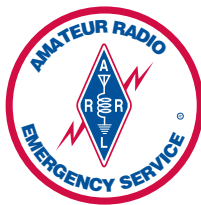
The **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)** serves as the “voice for fish and wildlife” by helping to foster a deep appreciation and understanding for the public management and conservation of the natural communities that represent the diversity of North America - fish, wildlife, and their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



The **American Red Cross (ARC)**, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



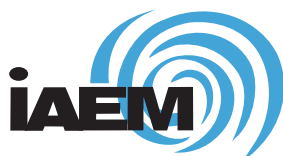
The **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)**, a not-for-profit organization that promotes interest in amateur radio communications and experimentation, represents U.S. radio amateurs in legislative matters, and maintains fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among amateur radio operators. [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



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](http://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](http://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.com](http://www.iaem.com)



The **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)** is a network of more than 12,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Its 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](http://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](http://www.imsasafety.org)



The **National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)** represents state chief information officers and information technology executives and managers. State members are senior officials who have executive level and statewide responsibility for information technology management. Representatives from federal, municipal, and international governments and state officials who are involved in information resource management but do not have chief responsibility for that function participate in the organization as associate members. [www.nascio.org](http://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](http://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.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)



The **National Association of State Telecommunications 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](http://www.nastd.org)

The **National Public Safety Telecommunication Council** is supported through funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Interoperability & Compatibility.

NPSTC's Support Office, operated by Highlands Consulting Group LLC, provides administrative, facilitation, decision support, outreach, and communications support to the Governing Board, Technical Committees, and Working Groups.

Funding for NPSTC's Regional Planning Assistance Program is provided by the National Institute of Justice, CommTech Program, through the Texas Sheriffs Association.

For more information, contact the NPSTC Support Office or visit the website at [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org).

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