



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council



Ten Years of Progress | 1997-2007

Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG)

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National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

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



Introduction to NPSTC

- Formed in Washington DC in 1997 to carry on and promote the work of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC).
 - **PSWAC was a committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and sponsored by the FCC and NTIA.**
- Accepted added responsibility to carry on and promote the efforts of the FCC's 700 MHz Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC) when that committee completed their work in July, 2003
- Now a nationally/internationally recognized public safety leadership organization and model.



Introduction to NPSTC

- A federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.
- Governance Committee membership and voting is by organization.
- There are non-voting Liaison Members (primarily Federal agencies) and Associate Members (CITIG and the Telecommunications Industry Association)
- Participation is open to everyone by direct participation or call-in to meetings, and with Committees/Working Groups in between.



NPSTC Member Organizations

Member Organizations:

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- 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 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- 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:

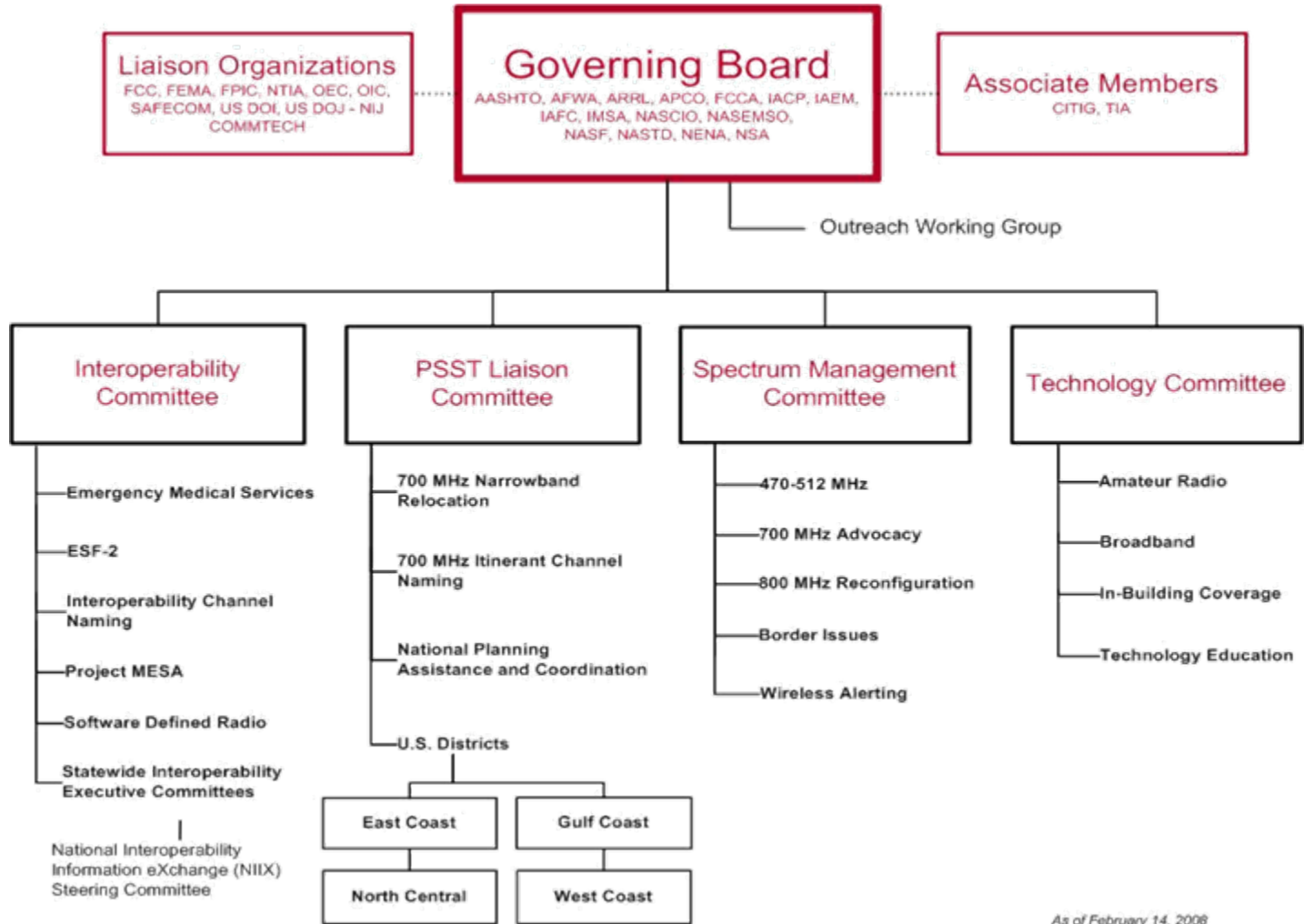
- Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group
- Telecommunications Industry Association

Liaison Organizations:

- Department of Justice
 - National Institute of Justice
- Federal Communications Commission
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- U.S. Department of Interior
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Office of Interoperability & Compatibility
 - Office of Emergency Communications
 - Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - SAFECOM
- U.S. Department of Interior



NPSTC Organization



As of February 14, 2008

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How is NPSTC organized?

- NPSTC's Governing Board
 - Representatives from each of its member organizations.
- Executive Committee
 - The Executive Committee is comprised of: NPSTC Chair, the NPSTC Vice Chair, the NPSTC Executive Director, and the four Committee Chairs.
- Four Operational Committees
 - **Interoperability Committee**
 - **Outreach Committee**
 - **Regional Planning Committee**
 - **Spectrum Management Committee**
 - **Technology Committee**

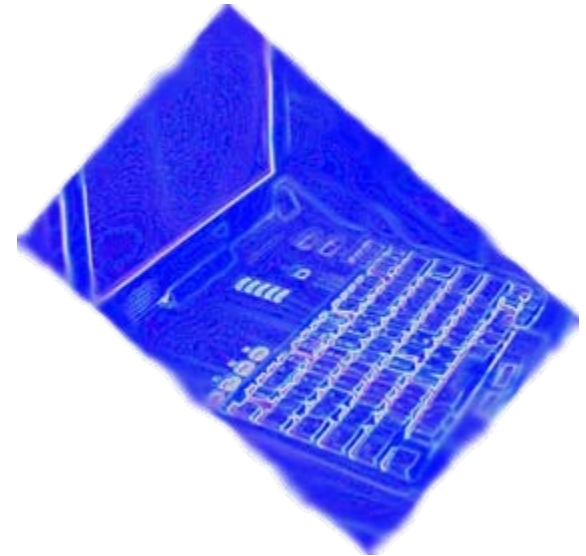


Interoperability Committee

- Project MESA
- Software Defined Radio (SDR)
- State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
 - National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) Steering Committee
- Interoperability Channel Naming
- Emergency Medical Services
- ESF-2

PSST Liaison Committee

- 700 MHz Narrowband Relocation
- 700 MHz Itinerant Channel Naming
- National Planning Assistance and Coordination (NPAC)
- U.S. Districts



Spectrum Management Committee

- 700 MHz Advocacy
- Border Issues
- Spectrum Below 512 MHz
- 470-512 MHz
- 800 MHz Reconfiguration
- Wireless Alerting



Technology Committee

- Amateur Radio Working Group
- In-Building Coverage Working Group
- Technology Education Working Group
- Broadband Working Group





Important Issues NPSTC Is Working On

- Common Channel Naming
- Statewide Planning
 - NIIX
 - SCIP/TCIP/IJ
- Border Issues



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Important Issues NPSTC Is Working On (Cont'd)

- In-Building Communications
- Nationwide Broadband Network
- Amateur Radio Services
- Project 25 Vocoder





Important Issues NPSTC Is Working On

- **Common Channel Naming**
- Statewide Planning
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Common Channel Naming

- Initiating ANSI Standards Process





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Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs)

- Required by 2005 DHS State Homeland Security Grant Program guidelines.
- Developed by all DHS-designated Urban Areas, and for a state-designated metropolitan area in states without Urban Areas.
- Exercised for each site using a limited full-scale exercise in 2006
- TICP and Exercise Scorecards released by DHS in early 2007.



Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIPs)

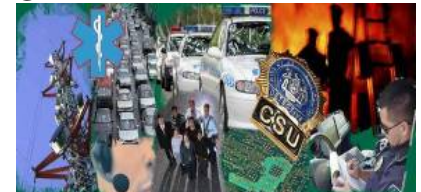
- Required by 2006 DHS State Homeland Security Grant Program guidelines.
- Developed by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 6 U.S. Territories
- Requirement of grant eligibility for \$1 billion Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program
- All 57 plans filed by Dec 3, 2007 deadline
- Future Federal grants must align with each state/territory SCIP for eligibility



National Interoperability Information Exchange

Welcome to the National Interoperability Information
eXchange

- Request of several Statewide Interoperability Planning Committees, is offering a service (www.NIIX.org) that includes tools to assist states with the development of their statewide communications interoperability plans.
- NIIX provides a centralized clearinghouse for interoperable communications-related information.
- NIIX represents a collaborative effort to share statewide plans, agreements, policy documents and other related information through a web-based, secure location.



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- **Border Issues**
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Border Goals

- Borders should be transparent for public safety operations
- Interference must be eliminated quickly
- Note: Canada and Mexico present different challenges



Canada Specific Issues

- 700/800 MHz progressing
- Above 30 MHz Agreement needs revision
 - Too many US applications being denied
 - No common interference standards
- No protocol for interference resolution
- No 4.9 GHz agreement
- NPSTC working directly with sister PS organization in Canada on common issues (under guidance of DOS and FCC)

Making Improvements

- Resolution of border issues is essential for national security
 - Seamless interoperability across borders
 - Several additional bilateral agreements to share or coordinate use of spectrum are needed
 - In the new agreements spectrum should be distributed equitably and procedures for coordination streamlined
 - Interference resolution procedures similar to those used with Mexico are needed for Canada



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In-Building Working Group

- Vendor Neutral Best Practices Document
- Participation from Industry and Public Safety Paper published December 2007
 - The main document can be downloaded from the NPSTC website
http://www.npstc.org/documents/20071212_NPSTC%20IBWG%20White%20Paper.pdf
 - The Appendices can also be downloaded from the NPSTC website
http://www.npstc.org/documents/20071212_IBWG%20White%20Paper%20Appendix%20A-E.pdf



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Public Safety Spectrum

Subject to
Narrowbanding

- 150 – 174 MHz (VHF)
- 450 – 470 MHz (UHF)
- 470 – 512 MHz (UHF) 11 markets only

- 800 MHz
- 700 MHz

- 4.9 GHz



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Amateur Radio Services

- Use of Amateur Radio in Emergency Operations and 9-1-1 centers
- For disaster recovery
- NPSTC ARRL committee providing testing for Amateur licensing





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The Issue

- In the Fall of 2006, a couple of U.S. fire departments discovered that the voice audio from digital radios in the presence of background noises (common to the fire operations) may cause distortion to the degree of becoming unintelligible.
- These Departments after not being able to get resolution to the problem or identify the cause other than it being in digital radios notified the IAFC, and the IAFF.

Best Practices

- The IAFC also approved the formation of a Working Group to determine the scope of the problem and work with manufacturers and other stakeholders to identify and/or develop short and long term solutions.
- On July 24, 2007, the Best Practices Group met to finalize and forwarded its recommended best practices to the Working Group and to the Testing Group for follow-up.
 - Includes things such as microphone placement and specific issues that should be addressed in training.
- Developed a PowerPoint presentation for educational and outreach purposes.

Cross Border Partnership

NPSTC congratulates the Public Safety Community in Canada as they move forward to organize a new body to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.



Thank You!

- For more information
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 - Or Visit our Website: www.NPSTC.org