February 2015   **NPSTC Governing Board Brief**

The NPSTC Support Office provides reports to the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) and the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) highlighting the recent achievements of NPSTC's Committees and Working Groups. This brief is intended to keep the NPSTC Governing Board members up to date on NPSTC's ongoing efforts to improve public safety communications and interoperability.

<u>**Interoperability Committee**</u> The Interoperability Committee met on February 24 and heard updates from the Working Groups under its domain including Border Issues, Radio Interoperability Best Practices, Common Channel Naming, 700 MHz Deployable Trunked Channels, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Committee discussed the recent FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding full power, interstitial 12.5 kHz "offset" channels in the 809-817/854-862 MHz band (Docket #WP15-32). A new Working Group has been proposed within the Spectrum Committee to track this issue.

Radio Interoperability Best Practices Working Group: Radio programming at the scene of a large scale incident is a challenge. NPSTC is developing a set of best practices for radio programming, to include programming guidelines, verification, testing, and training. **UPDATE**: This group met on February 12 and 26. The I/O Best Practices Working Group has made progress on 2 of the 12 originally defined statements and continued initial work on the report that will accompany the final project. Assignments for many of the remaining 10 Best Practice Statements were made to individual members of the group for initial build-out and presentation to the entire group and are gathering reference materials to support the recommendations.

Border Issues Working Group: This group meets on a recurring basis to review cross border public safety communications issues, and monitor and recommend positions on frequency coordination and interoperability with Mexico and Canada. **UPDATE**: The Working Group met on February 3. The final version of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG)-NPSTC Cross Border Communications Report has gone through the final editing process and was approved by both the CITIG and NPSTC Governing Boards. The Working Group continues to develop a formal outreach plan for distribution of the report. The report will also be presented at the upcoming Canada/U.S. Communications Interoperability Working Group (CANUS CIWG), currently set for April in Washington D.C.

Channel Naming Working Group: The Channel Naming Working Group is modifying the existing standard to include new 700 MHz air-to-ground channels. Three projects are underway: Identification of standardized channel names for 700 MHz interoperable air to ground frequencies; identification of channel names for additional 700 MHz interoperability frequencies; and creation of a best practices guide for naming state designated interoperability channels. **UPDATE:** The Common Channel Naming Working Group met on February 19. The group has completed work on Phase One of its current project.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Working Group: The EMS Working Group meets monthly to review issues impacting public safety communications in the Emergency Medical Services arena. Narrowband voice and broadband data issues are discussed and the group recently completed an EMS Broadband Applications list for the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). **UPDATE**: The EMS Working Group met on February 5 to continue work on the current video use in EMS project. A presentation on EMS video and multi-media applications was made. The group reviewed old documents for relevant applications and have requested input from its

members on new topics. The EMS Working Group also extended the request for contributions to the full NPSTC Participants listserv and via other social media and professional outreach groups.

Spectrum Management Committee: The Spectrum Management Committee met on February 13 to review items currently pending with the FCC and heard updates from the groups under their umbrella. The Spectrum Committee reviewed results of the LED and energy-efficient lighting interference questionnaire and will be preparing a report based upon the information received. A conference call was held with representatives of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) on February 13 to discuss a Request for Reconsideration filed with the FCC to modify the rules regarding the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP). NPSTC subsequently filed comments with the FCC opposing any loosening of the P25 CAP testing mechanisms.

Two new Spectrum Committee Working Groups, 800 MHz Interstitial Channel Working Group and Interference Protection Working Group, will be proposed for NPSTC Governing Board approval at the March meeting.

700 MHz Deployable Channel Selection Working Group: The FCC encouraged the National Regional Planning Committees (NRPC) and NPSTC to identify specific Reserve Channels to support deployable trunked systems on a nationwide basis that can be incorporated into regional plans within 3 months from the publication of the 700 MHz Report and Order in the Federal Register. NPSTC has established a joint Work Group with NRPC to identify eight deployable channels. Other challenges will be to standardize a system ID for deployables and guidance to minimize interference for close spaced incidents. **UPDATE**: This Working Group met on February 12 and 26. Recommendations from TIA regarding selected channels were reviewed to determine if there are any industry or vendor concerns. These recommendations were considered as the Working Group developed its final recommendation. The final recommendation was approved by the NPSTC Governing Board and the NRPC, and submitted as a joint NPSTC and NRPC recommendation to the FCC on February 13, 2015.

RF Interference from Energy-Efficient Lighting: NPSTC was approached by several individuals who had experienced interference with energy efficient lighting. NPSTC issued the question to the public safety community through the NPSTC Participant's Listserv which resulted in a flurry of responses and also indicated issues with other sources of interference. The FCC has issued some citations. **UPDATE**: Based on the initial input from various agencies, NPSTC developed and compiled a more formal questionnaire which was distributed to public safety on January 19. As of the close of that survey on February 13, approximately 76 public safety agency representatives had responded. Fifty-one of those responding said they had no interference, with the remaining 25 providing some details on the interference they had experienced.

FCC Part 22 Public Notice: The FCC issued a Public Notice on October 17, seeking comment on the need for more flexible Part 22 technical rules. Comments were due January 21, 2015, and Reply Comments were due February 20, 2015. Some jurisdictions have used Part 22 channels to supplement Part 90 public safety channels. Public safety experience shows some flexibility is needed to do the following: widen emission bandwidth to match the allowed mask; allow mobiles and portables certified under Part 90 to operate on Part 22 channels; and modify build-out requirements to consider wide-area systems that license adjacent areas to provide interference protection. **UPDATE**: NPSTC filed Reply Comments with the FCC on February 20, 2015.

Technology and Broadband Committee: The Technology and Broadband Committee met on February 18 to hear updates from the Working Groups under its control including the Local Control Working Group, the Deployable Systems Working Group, the Radio Programming Compatibility Requirements Working Group, and the Video Technology Advisory Group. There was an extensive report from the Priority and Quality of Service Working Group regarding the PSAC report and a discussion regarding NPSTC's response to the TIA filing in the 700 MHz Public Safety Narrowbanding Order.

Priority & Quality of Service (P&QoS) Working Group: The P&QoS is refreshing the 2012 NPSTC Report regarding Priority & QoS issues in public safety LTE and is also examining the impact of technological improvements that have occurred in the past 2 years. The P&QoS consists of nearly 50 volunteers from the first responder and industry community. **UPDATE:** The entire P&QoS Working Group met on February 4, 11, and 18 to work on a report

responding to the PSAC's request to provide public safety feedback on priority and preemptive issues. The Working Group established sub-groups to focus on various areas of the presentation including Requirements, Introduction, Use Cases, and General Overview. Those groups met 18 times during the month on February 3, 4(2), 9, 10, 11(2), 13(2), 17(2), 18, 19(3), 20(3) plus a 2-day face to face meeting in Boulder, Colorado, on February 23 and 24 for compilation and final edits. The report will be complete in mid-March.

Local Control Working Group: This Local Control Working Group is refreshing the 2012 NPSTC Local Control Report on public safety issues with LTE deployments. The group consists of over 50 volunteers from the first responder and industry community. **UPDATE:** The Local Control Working Group did not formally meet during the month of February; instead turning over their meeting dates and resources to the P&QoS Working Group to aid in completion of the PSAC report. Members were given tasks to work on during the hiatus and continued work independently, through the group listserv page and emails.

LTE Deployable Assets Working Group: This LTE Deployable Asset is a joint effort of DHS and Canada's Centre for Security Science to study public safety LTE deployable assets that will operate along jurisdictional boundaries. **UPDATE:** The group met on February 10 and 24. It continues to develop a series of Use Cases to support recommendations and to update the Operational Requirements Spreadsheet.

LTE Global Standards: The Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) hosted a meeting in Montreal in 2014 to discuss the standards process for voice operations. TETRA Critical Communications Association (TCCA), TCCE, and PSCR were present. The consensus was reached for all standards development to be done within 3GPP. OMA will finalize their work and submit it to 3GPP. There was a 3GPP meeting held in Scotland to organize the process. It was agreed the 3GPP process should not be modified, but 3GPP should share some portion of the work with groups like OMA to speed it up. At this meeting, the participants created a new working group, SA6, within 3GPP. SA6 will be the home for public safety applications. 3GPP Release 13 is still focused on mission critical voice PTT and Release 14 will focus on mission critical data, looking at specific services such as mission critical video. Any unfinished work from Release 13 will carry over into Release 14; both intended to be complete by 2016. **UPDATE**: Following the January 3GPP SA6 group meeting in Italy, a second meeting occurred in France during the week of February 23 to elect leadership for the new SA6 group. Also in January, the SA1 Service Requirements Group met to review a proposal by the French government to establish a mission critical public safety video standards proposal. This proposal will be reviewed at the 3GPP meeting in March in Shanghai, China, followed by another meeting in April to discuss requirements.

Radio Programming Compatible Requirements (Radio PCR) Working Group: The Radio PCR Working Group is focused on the impact to public safety agencies caused by the mandatory use of dissimilar radio programming software systems in the P25 environment. The group includes several public safety radio system vendors and public safety stakeholders. The Radio PCR Programming and Management (PAM) Tool has been created to normalize the disparate naming conventions used by each manufacturer. This tool provides information to help agencies program P25 radios from different vendors and will also help with the programming of multi-vendor P25 radios at the scene of a large-scale incident. **UPDATE:** The entire Radio PCR Working Group did not meet during the month of February. Instead, the Chairs and selected members met on February 20 to confer on answers to recent questions from DHS S&T related to the possibility of automating the PAM tool to better assist the first responder community. The Working Group continues to work on enhancements for the new version's scheduled distribution, including work on upgrades which will allow customer-entered data to be easily migrated into subsequent versions of the PAM tool.

VTAG Working Group: The Video Technology Advisory Group meets quarterly and is current reviewing video policy recommendations from the DHS Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) group. A 3GPP proposal to create mission critical video requirements is being monitored.