



news brief



June 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.

Interoperability Committee: In June the Interoperability Committee discussed the Border Issues Working Group's recent meeting with representatives from NPSTC, DHS's OIC, and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) aimed at improving communications between the entities. The groups have pledged to provide grant information to each other as it becomes available and are following up with Industry Canada (IC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the licensing coordination/approval process document which is being worked on. There was discussion regarding possible involvement in the upcoming Canada-U.S. Enhance Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE) exercise to be held in November. CITIG has asked if they could share cross border documents they have produced for distribution on the NPSTC website, the process of which is being developed.

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:** The group has approved the base draft template for the individual statements and Best Practice #1 and #2 have been incorporated into the draft form for comments.

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:** Select members held a joint meeting with representatives from NPSTC, DHS-OIC, and CITIG on June 22. This meeting was to review ways to leverage federal, state, and local border activities and to use NPSTC and CITIG for expanded outreach efforts.

Channel Naming Working Group: The Common 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 report was approved in early May and presented to APCO for the ANSI standards process. The group came to a consensus on 700 MHz transportable deployable channels and on 700 MHz Low Power channel naming. These recommendations will be formalized in a draft report. The group is currently addressing the best practice naming methodology recommendations for state mutual aid channels and continues to monitor the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) possible intent to use VMed28 to coordinate with local agencies during Search and Rescue operations.

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. **UPDATE:** Representatives of the EMS Working Group met with officials from the Seattle MEDIC1 program and Harborview Hospital Trauma Center to discuss the results of the "NPSTC EMS Telemedicine Questionnaire - Assessing the Impact of Prehospital Video" questionnaire. The EMS Working Group representatives gave a presentation at the Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) Workshop held in New Jersey on June 17 and 18.

700 MHz Deployable Trunked Systems Task Group: The FCC encouraged the National Regional Planning Council (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 which occurred on December 2, 2014. Other challenges will be to standardize a system ID for deployables and guidance to minimize interference for close spaced incidents. An operational set of best practices will be developed. **UPDATE:** This Task Group is developing a draft report that will include all of the proposed policies and recommendations for deployment of these systems. The Working Group Chair continues to coordinate with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) on options to manage the System ID and Subscriber ID functions.

Spectrum Management Committee: NPSTC has coordinated the filing of several notices with the FCC, including:

- Submitted comments regarding a waiver request from Kyma Medical Technologies Ltd. for approval of a very low power ultra-wideband medical imaging and diagnostic device that would operate between 500 MHz and 2.105 GHz. The draft comments filed with the FCC on June 19, 2015.
- Finalized NPSTC comments to the FirstNet Third Notice regarding the interpretation of “public safety entity.” The comments were filed with FirstNet on the June 4, 2015.
- Finalized a NPSTC ex parte letter that supports the recommendations regarding interstitial frequency coordination made in the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) reply comments. The draft ex parte letter was filed with the FCC June 8, 2015.

Interference Protection Working Group: This Working Group reviews spectrum policy issues which may present an interference threat to public safety radio and data systems. Initial issues for the group include review of the recently drafted High Efficiency Lighting Interference Report and examine the FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding full power, interstitial 12.5 kHz “offset” channels in the 809-817/854-862 MHz band. **UPDATE:** This Working Group monitored several potential interference issues and coordinated with the Spectrum Committee on the following FCC filings:

- Edited the NPSTC Report on Radio Frequency (RF) Interference from Energy-Efficient Lighting with additional information received from a public safety practitioner and information researched on past FCC activity. Finalized the draft report and drafted the transmittal letter to use in sending the report to the FCC.
- Drafted comments to an AT&T request for a waiver to use power spectral density approach at its 800 MHz sites in Kansas. NPSTC recommended the FCC deny the waiver request and instead wait for the outcome of the related ongoing rulemaking which addresses the same power spectral density issues. NPSTC also provided recommended conditions to help protect public safety, should the FCC decide to grant the waiver.
- **FirstNet Draft RFP:** FirstNet released its Draft RFP on April 29. NPSTC completed a review of the RFP and identified several areas for review by the NPSTC Executive Committee. A draft response has been created and will be circulated to the NPSTC Governing Board for review and discussion prior to the July 27 deadline. The draft includes comments on Priority and Quality of Service implementation, assignment of Local Control tasks, and the definition of rural deployments.

FCC Proposal to Eliminate Field Offices: NPSTC learned of an FCC proposal to eliminate over two-thirds of its field offices as part of its proposed FY2016 budget. **UPDATE:** On June 9, leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee announced an agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the FCC's plans to close FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, 15 field offices would remain open with monthly visits to a 16th location. The plan involves two mobile "tiger teams" and a complaint escalation process to assure that disruptions to critical communications are resolved in a timely manner. NPSTC was asked to work with the Enforcement Bureau to develop an escalation plan for complaints to the field offices. NPSTC met with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and other stakeholders and the process is moving towards agreement.

Technology and Broadband Committee: The Technology and Broadband Committee provided an overview presentation on the PSCR Public Safety Broadband Stakeholders Meeting with in-depth discussion on several of the individual presentations, including Priority and Quality of Service and Local Control.

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. **UPDATE:** The P&QoS Working Group met three times during the month on June 10, 16, and 24 to continue work on the updating the 2012 document. Sub groups have completed their draft chapters; those have been submitted and a combined draft distributed to the whole group for review. Work on the refresh of the 2012 document was finished except for the editing process and the final report is on target for submission to the NPSTC Governing Board in early July.

Local Control Working Group: This Local Control Working Group is refreshing the 2012 NPSTC Local Control Report on public safety issues with LTE deployments. **UPDATE:** The group expects to present the final draft to the NPSTC Governing Board for approval near the end of July 2015. A list of issues in the FirstNet RFP relevant to Local Control was distributed to the group for review on the possible need to address those in the final report.

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:** An Operational Requirements Spreadsheet has been created to accompany the final report. The teams also noted requirements relevant to the group that are not included in the current set of use cases already developed. The group is developing an additional Use Case involving LTE and Wi-Fi and how responder's connection may be maintained as they enter and exit buildings, and zones of overlap coverage..

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. **UPDATE:** Work continues 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, and the creation of a training Webinar. A test webinar has been scheduled for July 2.

VTAG Working Group: Members of the Working Group attended the Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) Workshop in New Jersey on June 17 and 18. A presentation was given on current and emerging issues relating to video policy, technology, and implementation.

NG9-1-1/FirstNet Task Group: This Task Group is co-chaired by APCO and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). The final outreach report was approved by NPSTC on June 29 and was broadly distributed the last week of June.