



news brief



The following activities and accomplishments occurred in July 2015.

Interoperability Committee

Radio Interoperability Best Practices Working Group: NPSTC is developing a set of best practices for radio programming, to include programming guidelines, verification, testing, and training. **UPDATE:** Work continues to finalize Best Practice Statement #1 and #2 and other Best Practice Statements, including encryption and subscriber and infrastructure issues.

Channel Naming Working Group: This 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:** APCO reported the draft APCO ANSI Channel Naming Standard 2015 document was in the final review and would likely be posted for a public comment period in early August. The Working Group conducted a final review of the 700 MHz Deployable Trunked System talk groups, and is addressing the best practice naming methodology recommendations for state mutual aid channels in coordination with the Radio IO Best Practices Working Group.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Working Group: This group is reviewing 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 group is completing a report detailing all of the information captured during the NPSTC EMS Telemedicine Questionnaire, scheduled for completion in September. The group heard a presentation from Dr. David Persee, EMS Medical Director of the Houston Fire Department, who discussed the video telemedicine pilot project linking paramedics with a dedicated base station physician for consultation on complex medical patients, including the ability to refer patients to destinations other than the hospital emergency room.

700 MHz Deployable Trunked Systems Task Group: 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. An operational set of best practices will be developed. **UPDATE:** This group reviewed and edited the initial draft report documenting prior recommendations.

Spectrum Management Committee: In July NPSTC coordinated the filing of several responses to the FCC, including:

- Submitted Comments to FCC regarding 800 MHz interstitial channel coordination rules;
- Conducted an internal review of the final FCC reorganization plan;
- Filed Comments with FCC on a third party proposal to modify the way interference disputes are managed;
- Filed Comments with the FCC on a proposal by AT&T to use Power Flux Density under a waiver;
- Filed an Ex Parte communication with the FCC on a potential conflict in FCC rules regarding airborne transmissions; and
- Provided the NPSTC Report on Radio Frequency Interference from Energy Efficient Lighting to FCC and had follow-up discussions with the FCC staff.

In addition to filing the above responses, NPSTC conducted the following activities:

- Monitored radio frequency issues between the U.S. and Mexico including impacts to public safety license holders along the border;

- Conducted an internal review on an FCC proposal to change equipment approval rules;
- Reviewed Admiral Simpson's speech to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission (NARUC) regarding federal involvement in regulating 9-1-1 networks;
- Monitored the 900 MHz broadband initiative being developed by Pacific DataVision; and
- Monitored the assignment by the FCC of experimental licenses to Verizon for testing in the Phoenix metropolitan area, using 10,000 watts ERP.

Interference Protection Working Group: This group is reviewing 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:** Conversations were held with manufacturers of high-efficiency lighting products responding to the NPSTC report. As a result of the NPSTC report, at least one major lighting manufacturer has indicated it is reviewing some interference situations reported with the relevant public safety entities involved. The Working Group reviewed a report filed by ARRL with the FCC regarding complaints that Home Depot stores are selling lighting systems to homeowners tested under FCC rules applicable to products for commercial instead of residential environments, which is in violation of FCC rules.

This group is currently updating its review of a modified LightSquared proposal to establish satellite communications operating near the same frequency band used for GPS radio transmissions. Gary Pasicznyk, City and County of Denver, CO, will help coordinate. NPSTC filed an Ex Parte communication with the FCC on July 29 indicating public safety agencies need to be represented in the testing of any proposed solution and offering NPSTC's assistance in that endeavor.

FirstNet Draft RFP: NPSTC filed comments covering 11 key issues; see: <http://www.npstc.org/article.jsp?id=1241>.

Technology and Broadband Committee:

Priority & Quality of Service (PQoS) Working Group: This group is refreshing the 2012 NPSTC Report regarding Priority & QoS issues in public safety LTE and examining the impact of technological improvements that have occurred in the past 2 years. **UPDATE:** The PQoS Working Group sent its final draft 2015 report to a Public Safety Review Team to ensure the document meets first responder community needs. NPSTC plans to approve the final document in early August.

Local Control Working Group: This group is refreshing the 2012 NPSTC Local Control Report on public safety issues with LTE deployments. **UPDATE:** The group is reviewing a fully revised report to resolve conflicts with changing nomenclature used to describe certain elements of the FirstNet system. The review will be completed by August 7.

LTE Deployable Assets Working Group: This group 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:** Work continued on the development of Use Case #7, regarding service continuity for public safety personnel as they transition from FirstNet coverage to an in-building Wi-Fi coverage model. Updates have been made to the Core Requirements spreadsheet which captures elements deemed essential to public safety by other entities.

LTE Global Standards: A 3GPP meeting to organize the process created a new working group, SA6, within 3GPP, to house public safety applications. 3GPP Release 13 is focused on mission critical voice PTT and Release 14 is focused on mission critical data, 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:** SA6 continues to work on a study report for Mission Critical Push to Talk (MC-PTT). NPSTC is monitoring the status of this work to determine the potential delay in finalizing the MC-PTT recommendations. South Korea and the United Kingdom each continue their plans to implement mission critical voice communications on LTE prior to the finalization of a 3GPP standard. This will result in a significant deployment of devices using a proprietary system.

Radio Programming Compatible Requirements (Radio PCR) Working Group: Work on updates to the PAM Tool and webinar development have been temporarily halted pending the outcome of a meeting with DHS-OIC on August 5 to discuss the future vision of this program and how it might integrate into an evolved program linking CAPRAD and CASM.

VTAG Working Group: This group hosted a call with an expanded membership including many of the June VQiPS workshop participants. The VTAG has expanded their work plan to include a number of new areas involving video policy and analytics. The following topics were reviewed at this quarterly meeting: VQiPS workshop overview, update on UL Standards work with body cameras, discussion on NPSTC EMS Telemedicine Questionnaire, and review of the DHS S&T Datacasting Pilot Projects in Houston and Chicago. The VTAG plans to review the VQiPS Handbook update in August and discussed the Effective Transport of Video project, created a list of public safety issues involving video redaction, and discussed problems with PSAP handling of incoming video from NG911 and other camera systems.

NG9-1-1/FirstNet Task Group: This group, co-chaired by APCO and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), issued their final outreach report in June. The National 911 Program Office has requested NPSTC provide an overview of the report during their quarterly webinar scheduled for August 11.