governing board brief — NPSTC

The following activities and accomplishments occurred in August 2015.

Interoperability Committee
Radio Interoperability Best Practices Working Group: This group met on August 13 and 27. Individual members presented updates on the best practice statements they are developing for group feedback. Work continues on the main Radio Interoperability Best Practice master report and a draft has been presented to the group for review.

Channel Naming Working Group: The group met on August 13 and was briefed on the status of the draft APCO ANSI Channel Naming Standard 2015 document. APCO reported the document was in the final review stages and should be put out for public comment sometime during the month of September. Following receipt of a proposal to modify the channel designation for all simplex channels, a call for comments was distributed to the NSPTC Participants Listserv. Comments and replies from the forum will be discussed in the September meeting. The group is also reviewing best practice naming recommendations for state mutual aid channels and is coordinating with the Radio IO Best Practices Working Group.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Working Group: The group did not meet in August. Work continues offline on the EMS Telemedicine Report detailing the use of prehospital video technology by EMTs and paramedics.

Border Issues Working Group: The group met on August 4 to review a 2-page outreach document highlighting the recent agreement between the U.S. and Canada on use of portable radios at the border. Technical Bulletin 8 (TB-8),released by Industry Canada (IC) on August 6, is a compendium of available cross border interoperability voice/data channels that can be used nationwide in Canada near the Canada-U.S. border. The group monitors ongoing efforts by the FCC and IC to clarify procedural rules to allow the placement of base station infrastructure on the opposite border to support local operations and interoperability as well as a review of the recommended steps to license a public safety radio system near the joint border. A series of presentations, scheduled for the fall, will review the success of recent DHS-funded border communications grant programs.

700 MHz Deployable Trunked Systems Task Group: This group met on August 13 and 27 to review its draft report. The Co-Chairs, support staff, and other pertinent members of the group met on August 6 to discuss content for the updated draft report. NPSTC has worked with several RPC representatives to make additional edits. Significant changes in the coordination process were identified and subsequent rework of the draft report has been completed, including discussions with APCO on the use of the CAPRAD database to house deployable trunked system assignments. The report is in the final comment and editing process and will be presented to the Governing Board for approval. NPSTC is also coordinating with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) to ensure the technical components of the report are accurate and to map a process for the assignment of the System ID numbers.

Spectrum Management Committee: **UPDATE**: The Committee met on August 14 to review recent filings and items currently pending or proposed with the FCC, NTIA, and FirstNet. Representatives of the Committee were invited to join a conference call with FCC staff to review new procedures for handling interference complaints from public safety agencies. The following topics were discussed by Committee members during the month of August:
• FCC assignment of Vehicle Repeater channels in the VHF band (173 MHz).
• The 4.9 GHz Report being developed by APCO with NPSTC participation.
• Anticipated action by the FCC to allow certain railroad police departments to access public safety interoperability channels.

- Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) proposal on coordinating 800 MHz interstitial channels to minimize interference.
- A proposal by the FCC to update the Commission's rules on evaluating and approving RF devices.
- A FCC notice naming Lauren Kravetz as Chief of Staff to the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.
- A notice by the FCC to approve radio spectrum to operate robotic lawn mowers.

Interference Protection Working Group: The group met on August 12. Discussion topics included comments to the LMCC 800 MHz interstitial channel coordination recommendations and updates on the LightSquared proposal to establish satellite communications, which will operate near the same frequency band used for GPS radio transmissions. NPSTC is coordinating with LightSquared to make sure public safety interests are included in their upcoming test plans. NPSTC will file another Ex Parte with the FCC documenting its involvement with this process. The group also reviewed the Ex Parte filed by NPSTC in response to recent FCC proceedings regarding commercial operators using cellular Power Flux Density measurements.

FirstNet Draft RFP: **UPDATE**: NPSTC filed a set of Comments regarding the FirstNet Draft RFP on July 27. NPSTC is now collecting all of the publically available RFP comments and posting them to the NPSTC website. This will provide easy access to a library of comments regarding the FirstNet proposal. As of this report, 11 sets of comments have been uploaded to the NPSTC web site.

Technology and Broadband Committee:
Priority & Quality of Service (PQoS) Working Group: The group completed its report and did not meet as a group in August. An internal call with the Governing Board was held on August 11 to answer any outstanding questions prior to presentation of the report for approval. The final report was approved by the Governing Board and released on August 19.

Local Control Working Group: The group met on August 26. An updated report was sent to the group in July for a final review and they continue to work through the submitted comments for clarification and editing.

LTE Deployable Assets Working Group: The group met on August 11 and 25. In addition to the group meetings, the Chairs met on August 4 to revise the work plan on creation of the operations requirements document. The group finalized Use Case #7, addressing service continuity for public safety personnel as they transition from FirstNet coverage to an in-building Wi-Fi coverage model. The group made updates to the Core Requirements spreadsheet capturing elements deemed essential to public safety by other entities. A face to face meeting of this group has been scheduled for the week of September 28th at the PSCR facility in Boulder, CO.

International Public Safety Requirements/Standards Task Force: On August 31, SA-6 released a revised functional document detailing features and functionality for mission critical communications services. This is Stage 2 work of the LTE Release 13 process. NPSTC is currently reviewing this 118-page report.

Radio Programming Compatible Requirements (Radio PCR) Working Group: This group has moved from a monthly to a quarterly meeting schedule and did not meet in August. There will be a call with the group co-chairs in early September to review a proposal that will create individual state centric PAM Tool templates. This will allow the template to include both nationwide interoperable channels as well as statewide interoperability (SWIC) resources. The SWIC would be able to lock in frequency assignments, channel label names, and PL codes, ensuring consistency in use. A discussion is also underway to include DMR programming translation based on requests from user agencies that do not use P25 systems

VTAG Working Group: This group meets quarterly and did not meet in August. Its next meeting is set for October. The group continues work offline on an expanded work plan including a number of new areas involving video, policy, and analytics. The group has significantly expanded their membership during August and is waiting to review a revised VQiPS Manual.