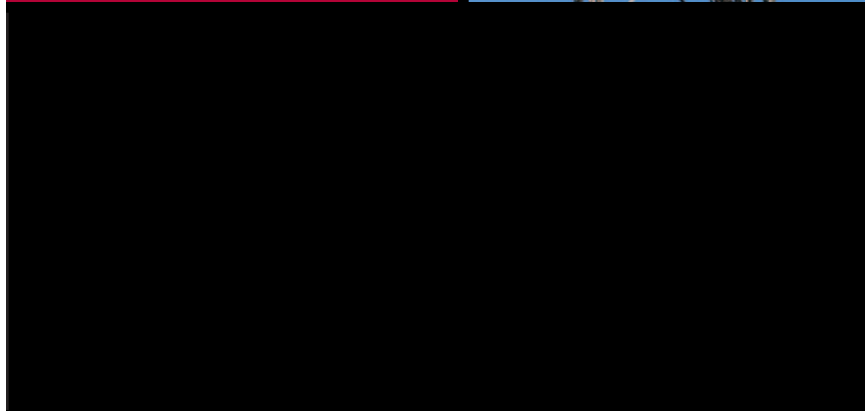


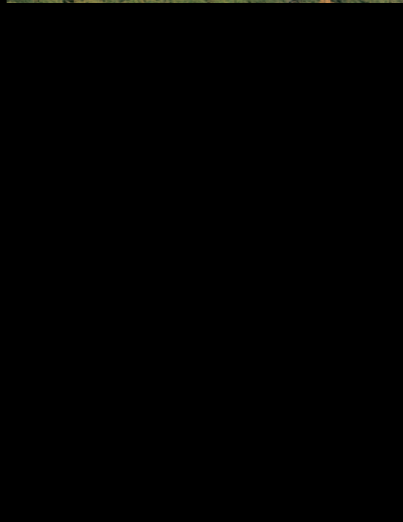
**NPSTC**

**NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

**2007 ANNUAL REPORT**



Celebrating  
**10**  
YEARS  
1997-2007





## WHO WE ARE

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Radio Relay League  
American Red Cross  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
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 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 Technology Directors  
National Sheriffs' Association

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group  
Telecommunications Industry Association

### LIAISON ORGANIZATIONS

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

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



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Vincent Stile

The year 2007 began with great expectations for improved public safety communications. With 800 MHz rebanding we looked forward to less radio interference; with federal grants to all the states, we worked toward greater interoperability for first responders. This has been realized in many ways with federal help and intervention.

Reflecting back over the year, Congress fashioned a grant process for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to encourage and administer the development of interoperability plans in each of the 50 states of the union. The Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) grants allotted a total of \$1 billion to the states that applied and met the requirements of the grant.

Also early in the year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provided directions to clarify issues and controversies afflicting the 800 MHz Transition Administrator, Sprint/Nextel, and local government entities in an effort to fix the problems in the 800 MHz public safety band and to help move the rebanding process along. Towards the end of 2007, we witnessed the FCC's landmark creation of a public-private partnership to build a national public safety broadband network using the 700 MHz spectrum to improve first responders' wireless communications.

At each of these developments in this historic year, NPSTC was the eyewitness, involved, participating, and reporting these momentous events to our 15 member public safety associations. NPSTC has routinely communicated to the FCC, DHS, and the State Department to advocate for the best possible outcome for the public safety community and to describe its needs in detail. And, as of 2007, NPSTC had been doing this for a decade as our member organizations celebrated 10 years of collaborative advocacy for public safety telecommunications.

As Chair of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), I would like to invite you to review our Annual Report and suggest that you participate in the activities of NPSTC to become better informed and to help shape the future of public safety communications.

Vincent R. Stile  
Chair, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the NPSTC Annual Report for 2007. Published in early 2008, we see that already things have changed since we went to press! Our last year saw so many progressive, yet daunting, changes in public safety communications, the community is reeling from all the attention we are getting. It is surely a case of, “Be careful what you wish for!”

When I was managing a local system, I hoped for funding to develop new technologies and help interoperability. Then along came some federal Homeland Security interoperability grants, COPS interoperability grants, and technical assistance from the feds. It was “Hallelujah time” for me and most managers who were always looking for funding for their system improvements. However, all of this money comes with a lot of work, and a lot of writing—an alphabet soup of TICPs, SCIPs, and PSIC grants—what a year of planning 2007 was for our community. Add on top of that the rebanding of 800 MHz and the development of a nationwide public safety broadband network, and we can hardly get our breath. There are only so many people to do all the work, and NPSTC members have been smack in the middle of it all. As we move into 2008, it does not look like things will get much calmer.

Other important items covered in this Annual Report include NPSTC’s great success in our work with the State Department, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to improve border communications. Our common channel naming initiative has been very successful and has now been moved into a standards development process. We continue to file comments, reply comments, and ex parte communications with the FCC, many focused on 700 MHz in 2007, and, as you will see in this report, the growth of NPSTC evidenced through the use of our website and listservs has exceeded all of our expectations. This year as we worked to develop a Statement of Requirements (SoR) for public safety broadband in 700 MHz, the effort to develop public safety feedback through NPSTC led to almost 300,000 contacts with the community. Who would have thought 10 years ago that we would ever have been able to provide these services?!

It takes teamwork, which is what NPSTC is all about. We appreciate your involvement, and look forward to another “wild” year in 2008!

Marilyn Ward  
Executive Director, NPSTC



Marilyn Ward

## NPSTC'S MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS CELEBRATE TEN YEARS!



OIC's David Boyd recalls historical beginnings

continue to work towards consensus. While it sounded impossible, with no funding and no official sanction, we set out to bring everyone together to further public safety interests through consensus.

Ray Barnett, Jimmy Downs, and I invited the feds, the frequency coordinators, and other public safety associations to the table, and we proposed a regular meeting schedule. That meeting was the first meeting of the yet unnamed National Public Safety Telecommunications Council.”

In June 2007, NPSTC's member organization celebrated the tenth anniversary of their collaboration on behalf of public safety telecommunications. The celebration was a wonderful gathering filled with great stories, a review of growth and achievements and history. Service awards were distributed to those participants who have volunteered many hours to NPSTC's collaborative success.

“In 1995-1996 we were working day and night on the PSWAC [Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee] process,” says Executive Director Marilyn Ward. “This was such a great process for local, state, and federal public safety representatives to come together and work out issues. One day, while in the Chairman of the FCC's office I was talking to one of his aides, and he suggested we find a way to



NPSTC'S Vice Chairs Chief Douglas Aiken and Chief Harlin McEwen



NPSTC'S Chair Vincent Stile presents award to Executive Director Marilyn Ward



Harlin McEwen presents John Powell with the Richard DeMello Award

## NPSTC'S INTEROPERABILITY CHAIR, JOHN POWELL, RECEIVES RICHARD DEMELLO AWARD

NPSTC's Governing Board awarded the 2007 Richard DeMello award to John Powell. Chief Harlin McEwen, last year's award winner, presented the DeMello Award to Mr. Powell at the 98th Anniversary Annual Awards Banquet of the Radio Club of America in New York City, New York, on November 16, 2007. In accepting the award, Mr. Powell said, “This award is a wonderful and deserving tribute to Richard's tireless effort to build bridges between organizations, and I am humbled to be its second recipient.”

## THE WINDING ROAD TO 700 MHZ

### **Congress Passes Digital Television (DTV) Transition Legislation**

It all began here. In February 2006, Congress passed the long-awaited legislation requiring broadcasters to vacate the upper 700 MHz band, channels 60-69, by February 17, 2009. In 2007, NPSTC's volunteer members focused tremendous attention on the complex possibilities offered by DTV Clearing. NPSTC carefully studied the pros and cons of the various proposals to restructure allocations, technical rules for deployment, and opportunities to reduce interference between allocations. During the first quarter, the focus was on 700 MHz band planning; the guard band licensees' proposal; the use of wideband, broadband, and narrowband in 700; the impending FCC auction; and the many proposals on the table. A special NPSTC task group developed a plan known as the Broadband Optimization Plan (BOP) to address restructuring the 700 MHz band that was ultimately rejected as the FCC issued the historic Second R&O.

### **Principles Surrounding the 700 MHz Band**

During 2007, the FCC was making critical decisions on how the remaining spectrum in the 700 MHz band to be released by television broadcasters in 2009 would be used. In April, NPSTC urged the FCC to incorporate important guiding principles that would support public safety's needs as the Commission made decisions, stating that the FCC had an opportunity to implement a primary recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and provide the nation's public safety agencies a nationwide interoperable broadband network. However, there were still bumps in the road to making the public safety broadband network a reality. In May, NPSTC opposed elements of the FCC's Ninth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to establish a national public safety licensee to manage a 700 MHz public safety broadband segment because of its relationship to the Frontline Wireless proposal to designate a 10 MHz E Block in the commercial segment. NPSTC opposed the proposal because it was inadequate due to the lack of funding, insufficient spectrum to make a public/private partnership work, and its concern that the network would not meet

public safety's needs of universal coverage, diversity, and redundancy.



[L to R] Marilyn Ward, ED; Harlin McEwen, IACP; Aaron Kennard, NSA; Alan Caldwell, IAFC; Lance Valcour, CITIG

### **Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST)**

**Incorporates** In the second quarter, anticipating the possibility of a national broadband network, the national Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), an organization made up of many of NPSTC's member organizations, was formed. By November 2007, the FCC formally designated the PSST the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL). The timing of a new Broadband Interoperability Working Group, stood up in the first quarter of 2007 (later renamed simply Broadband), could not have been better. Beginning with a mission to investigate solutions that deliver network and application broadband interoperability, they began by issuing a survey to determine public safety expectations and potential use of broadband. By the third quarter, they were working feverishly to develop a draft 700 MHz Public Safety Statement of Requirements (SoR) to help the winner of the FCC's spectrum auction understand public safety's requirements for a broadband public safety network.

### **Taking a Giant Step into the Age of Broadband**

On August 24, 2007, after much deliberation and the consideration of many plans, the FCC published the Second Report and Order (R&O) that will truly move public safety into the age of broadband. The decision restructured the 700 MHz band and service rules and established a PSBL to promote a nationwide interoperable broadband network for public safety.

## COMMON CHANNEL NAMING— FROM RECOGNIZED NEED TO PLAN

The success of the NPSTC Member Organization's consensus-building style was dramatically demonstrated by the Public Forum on Common Radio Channel Naming. Hosted by the Common Channel Naming Task Group, a collaboration of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group and members of the Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee's former Common Nomenclature Working Group, the public forum solicited alternate recommendations and/or affirmation of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) Naming Scheme for the interoperability channels.

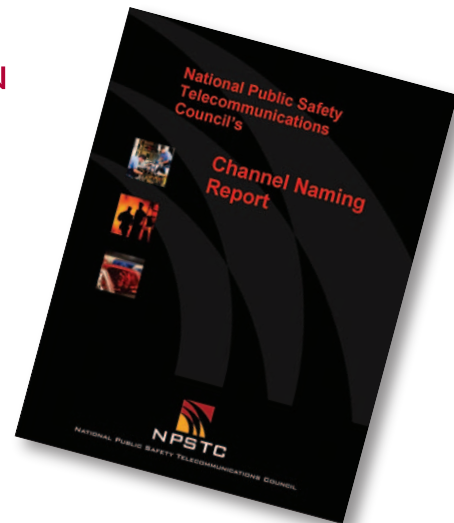
More than 50 participants attended the forum with another dozen participating by teleconference. Guided by the input from the group, NPSTC members were able to develop a consensus position on a common channel naming plan that was available for comment on the NPSTC website for 90 days following the meeting. After incorporating suggestions and edits, NPSTC adopted the Common Channel Naming Report as a living document. In the second quarter, SAFECOM's Executive Committee formally adopted the report, recommending adoption by OEC and OIC.



NPSTC Governing Board meeting



Don Root, Common Channel Naming Task Group



At NPSTC's third quarter meeting, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO) proposed taking the Common Channel Naming Plan through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) process to develop an ANSI/NPSTC National Public Safety Interoperability Channel Naming Standard, working through APCO as the lead Standards Development Organization (SDO) with liaisons to three other SDOs, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), and the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA).

There have been changes to the Common Channel Naming Report required; for example, the FCC's 2nd R&O, in which previously bifurcated spectrum in 700 MHz has been consolidated, changes the band plan. The Report will also require revision as protocols with Canada are adopted and as decisions on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) federal channels occur. As changes such as these are made, NPSTC will publish the changes, publicize them, and seek comment.



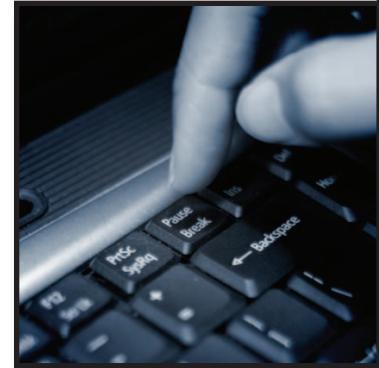
## HOW NPSTC HELPS PUBLIC SAFETY

### **NPSTC Provides a Unified Voice for Public Safety**

Before NPSTC was formed, the organizations representing public safety communications developed positions based on the needs of their constituents. Because there was no vehicle to develop a unified public safety position, the FCC needed to sort out public safety's telecommunication needs and positions from sometimes competing points of view. NPSTC's collaborative discussion, debate, and consensus decisionmaking enable public safety to present that unified point of view to the FCC. NPSTC's volunteers represent organizations who see the value of working together to solve public safety communications issues and who collectively bring hundreds of years of experience to the important discussions that shape policy for the nation's emergency responders.

### **NPSTC Advocates for Public Safety in its FCC Filings**

NPSTC seeks to provide a forum to consider telecommunications policy and regulatory issues, most prominently those of the FCC, and to present a consensus position. Its examination seeks to bring clarity to how varied proposals affect public safety operations. The most crucial element of the NPSTC process is the reliance on individuals who are responsible for the daily operations of agency communications systems and their cumulative experience to discern how a proposal will affect public safety. The process reaches out to agencies with particular expertise in an area; local, county, or state governments that support and fund public safety; manufacturers, and service providers; and other public safety associations. The objective is to comprehend the interests involved in a particular matter, explain public safety's circumstances and present a recommendation that flows from a consensus among the public safety community.



Of greatest importance to NPSTC is to profile particular issues of telecommunications policy and to promote public safety participation in the consideration of those issues. NPSTC believes it is vital that policymakers hear what matters to public safety and be able to comprehend how a particular decision will affect the delivery of emergency services. Fairly balancing the varied interests that compete in the regulatory process requires comprehending what is at stake. NPSTC seeks to articulate public safety's stake.

### **NPSTC Provides a Voice on Border Issues**

NPSTC representatives continue to provide needed public safety input on border issues to DHS, Department of State, and the FCC. The message rests on the basic propositions that radio communications are essential for successful public safety operations; interoperability is vital between agencies and across borders; and interference poses a significant threat to successful communications and to the safety of the lives of public safety responders.

NPSTC supports the U.S./Mexico High Level Consultative Commission (HLCC) and its Directory of Bilateral Issues for 2007-2009, which include protocols for VHF/UHF spectrum use, reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band, 700 MHz compatibility, and interference resolution procedures. NPSTC supports the work of the joint Department of State and DHS initiative to improve and expand cross-border communications through a cross-border microwave network solution. Further issues for consideration between the U.S. and Mexico include 4.9 GHz and the adoption of common nomenclature for public safety communications across the border.

In Canada, work on resolving issues in 700 and 800 MHz is progressing. The U.S. and Canada have no common interference standards for VHF and UHF applications nor protocols for interference resolution. There is no 4.9 GHz agreement and Canada uses a different propagation model than the U.S. does. NPSTC is working with CITIG on common issues.

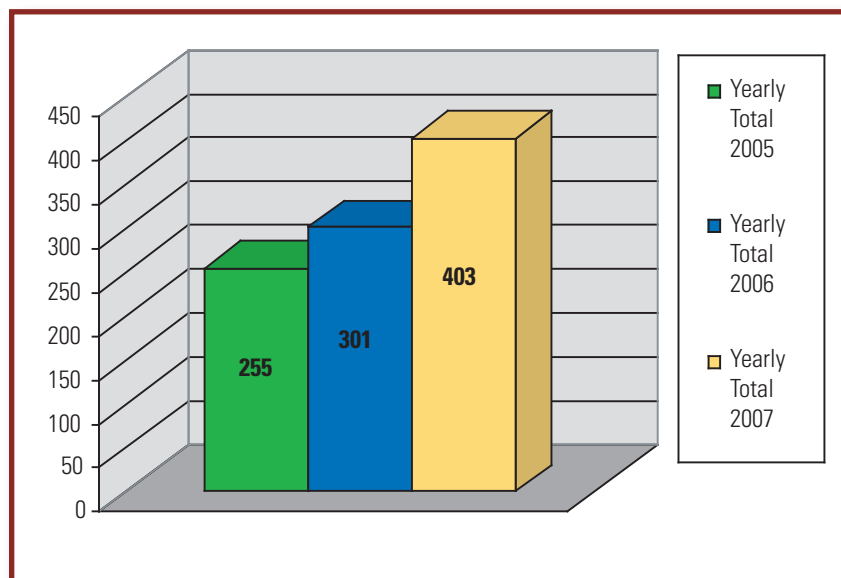
## NPSTC REACHES OUT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND FEDERAL POLICYMAKERS

One of NPSTC's most important missions is education. As an organization and through our member organizations, we move information to and from the public safety telecommunications community, providing the opportunity for our participants to learn from others facing the same challenges at our quarterly Governing Board meetings, and educating practitioners on policy, federal initiatives, technology, and the latest research.

NPSTC actively seeks your participation as a person interested in public safety telecommunications. As a NPSTC Participant you can impact national policies of tomorrow and be a part of planning the future course of public safety communications, today. You will learn the most current information on all the newest policies and plans for the nation. As an original source for much of the information that is critically important to professionals in the field, NPSTC also provides a conduit for the exchange of information to and from the federal organizations that make policy and provide funding for programs to the field. You can affect the rules and regulations that will affect your agency. You can communicate with the FCC, DHS, State Department, OEC, OIC, and other governmental agencies to make them aware of issues that the users face every day.

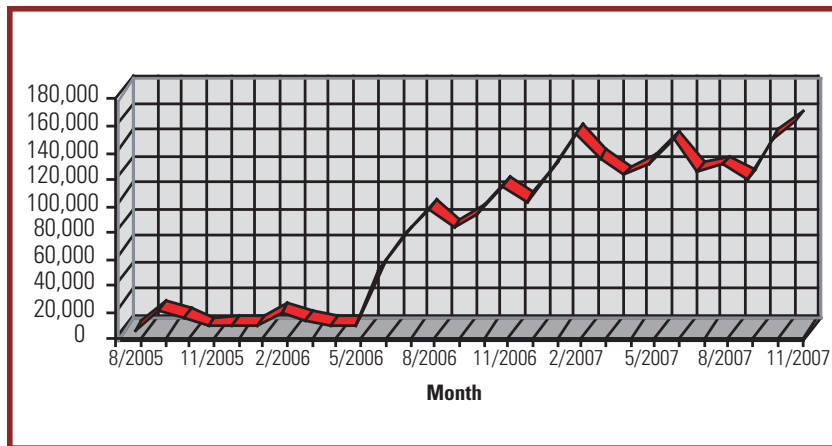
**Outreach, Outreach, and More Outreach:** NPSTC's Governing Board identified outreach to the public safety telecommunications community as its highest priority in 2007. In the first quarter of 2007, NPSTC unveiled an updated look for its website and family of publications, including new colors, a new logo, and new formats.

www.npstc.org improves daily with many new electronic features to facilitate easy registration to meetings, a *Help Wanted Page*, and tools to allow greater ease in searching. A web page was created to accept comments on proposed common channel names through May 20, 2007, for the Common Naming Task Group. In September, web hits rose to 160,000. NPSTC's four listservs currently hosts 800 members, up almost 40 percent from 2006.



NPSTC Meeting Attendance Has Grown Every Year Since 2005

NPSTC's quarterly and monthly newsletters published a wide variety of articles covering policy, operational, and technical issues. NPSTC learned that FCC staff refer to NPSTC newsletter articles for background on current issues. NPSTC had articles appear in member organization publications and in the trade press. The number of articles NPSTC has provided to other publications has grown over 300 percent from last year. NPSTC also issues press releases and position papers when the Governing Board feels issues merit extra attention.



Website Grows Steadily Upward in 2007

Representatives of NPSTC's Governing Board are sought-after speakers and panel members at organization and trade meetings. In the last year, NPSTC has also supported a booth at APCO, IAFC, and IWCE conferences and distributed numerous newsletters, Annual Reports, and Common Channel Naming CDs to interested attendees.

**Changes in NPSTC Membership:** At the November NPSTC meeting, the Governing Board voted in two new members. The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) became the newest NPSTC Governing

Board member, and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) was voted in as a NPSTC Associate Member. An Associate Member does not have voting privileges but may participate in all other NPSTC activities and is eligible to serve on any Committee or Working Group.

**Changes in Leadership:** At the February Governing Board meeting, Vice Chair Harlin McEwen announced that he would not seek re-election, although he continues to serve as IACP representative on the Governing Board. Ralph Haller, FCCA, was unanimously approved by the Governing Board to serve as new Vice Chair. At the February Governing Board meeting, Glen Nash, Chair, Technology Committee, State of California, stepped down due to increased job responsibilities, and Tom Sorley, City of Houston, assumed the role of Chair, Technology Committee, at the June meeting.





## NPSTC YEAR AT A GLANCE

### First Quarter—January, February, March

#### FCC Filings and Testimony

- February, NPSTC Ex Parte Letter supporting the 700 Technical Working Group's Second Report; Ex Parte Letter addressing Verizon Wireless position on guard band licensee; NPSTC Comments on 9th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on 700 MHz Band
- March, NPSTC Comments on 9th NPRM; NPSTC Ex Parte addressing the Broadband Optimization Plan (BOP); NPSTC Testimony to Congress, Washington, D.C.

#### Meetings

- January, SDR Forum, San Diego, CA
- February, Support Office Planning Meeting, Denver, CO; Common Radio Channel Naming Public Forum, Orlando, FL; NPSTC Committee and Governing Board Meetings, Orlando, FL
- March, FCC Meeting, Washington, D.C.; Statewide Planning Meeting – NPSTC/NGA, Los Angeles, CA; IWCE Conference, Las Vegas, NV

#### Publications

- January, First Quarter Newsletter, *npstc spectrum*; NPSTC 2007 First Quarter Report
- March, *What you need to know today*, NPSTC's electronic bulletin; *Mission Critical* Article on the Common Radio Channel Naming; *APCO Bulletin* Article on NPSTC/NGA Statewide Planning Meeting

### Second Quarter—April, May, June

#### FCC Filings and Testimony

- April, NPSTC Ex Parte Comments on Principles Surrounding the 700 MHz Band; NPSTC Migratory Birds Comment
- May, NPSTC 900 MHz Ex Parte; NPSTC 700 MHz Comments
- June, NPSTC Reply Comment to 700 MHz Band; NPSTC Google 700 MHz Proposal; Ex Parte on Retuning; NPSTC Testimony to Congress, Washington, D.C.

#### Meetings

- April, Meeting with Texas Radio Coalition with updates to the Common Radio Naming; Texas APCO Conference; CommTech/NIJ Meetings, Las Vegas, NV
- May, Project MESA, Portland, OR; OIC Industry Roundtable, Washington, D.C.
- June, FCC Spectrum Summit, Washington, D.C.; NPSTC Committee Meetings and Governing Board Session, Denver, CO; NASTD Southern Region Meetings, Mobile, AL; SDR Forum, Washington, D.C.

#### Publications

- April and June, *What you need to know today*, NPSTC's electronic bulletin; Statewide planning column for *Summer OIC Newsletter*; Article for *Interoperability Technology Today* on 800 MHz rebanding; Second Quarter newsletter, *npstc spectrum*; *Common Radio Channel Naming Final Report*; Press Release – International Trade Commission Ruling on EV-DO Technology

#### Also This Quarter

- April, NASCIO Joins NPSTC's Governing Board
- June, NPSTC's 10th Anniversary and New NPSTC Branding; RPC Training Session, Denver, CO



## Third Quarter—July, August, September

### FCC Filings and Testimony

- July, FCC Reply Comment on City of New York's PFR on Transition to 6.25 kHz efficiency
- August, Ex Parte Filing, Part 90; Ex Parte Filing, 700 MHz order dates

### Meetings

- July, Region 3, Regional Planning Committee Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- August, APCO International Conference – NPSTC Booth and Committee Panel, Baltimore, MD; FCC Meetings, Washington, D.C.; IAFC Conference, Atlanta, GA
- September, SDR Forum, Philadelphia, PA; NPSTC Committee and Governing Board Meeting, Arlington, VA; SAFECOM Executive Committee Meeting

### Publications

- July, FCC 700 MHz Position Paper and Press Release; NPSTC Second Quarter 2007 Report
- August and September *What you need to know today*, NPSTC's electronic bulletin; Third Quarter newsletter, *npstc spectrum*

### Also this Quarter

- July, National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) Phase I Release
- September, RPC Training, Arlington, VA

## Fourth Quarter—October, November, December

### FCC Filings and Testimony

- October, Ex Parte on 700 MHz Frontline Proposal; Testimony on Maintaining Communications Following a Major Disaster

### Meetings

- October, FCCA Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL; Florida APCO Chapter Meeting – NIIX Presentation; IACP Meeting, New Orleans, LA; NPSTC Broadband Working Group Meeting, 700 MHz SoR Review, Boulder, CO; NPSTC Presentation to FCC, Washington, D.C.
- November, Critical Incident Technology Conference, San Francisco, CA; All Hazards Forum in Baltimore, MD; NPSTC Committees and Governing Board Meetings, Atlanta, GA

### Publications

- October, November, December, *What You Need to Know Today*, NPSTC's electronic bulletin
- November, Press Release on the 700 MHz Statement of Requirements final document distribution; Press Release welcomes CITIG as new associate member to NPSTC; Press Release on 2007 DeMello Award winner and presentation at the RCA Banquet; Article for member publication, *IMSA Journal*; Article on NPSTC's Common Channel Naming for *OEC Bulletin*; Article on communications response in San Diego wildfires for *OEC Bulletin*
- December, In-Building Working Group Best Practices White Paper on NPSTC Website; Fourth Quarter Newsletter, *npstc spectrum*

### Also this Quarter

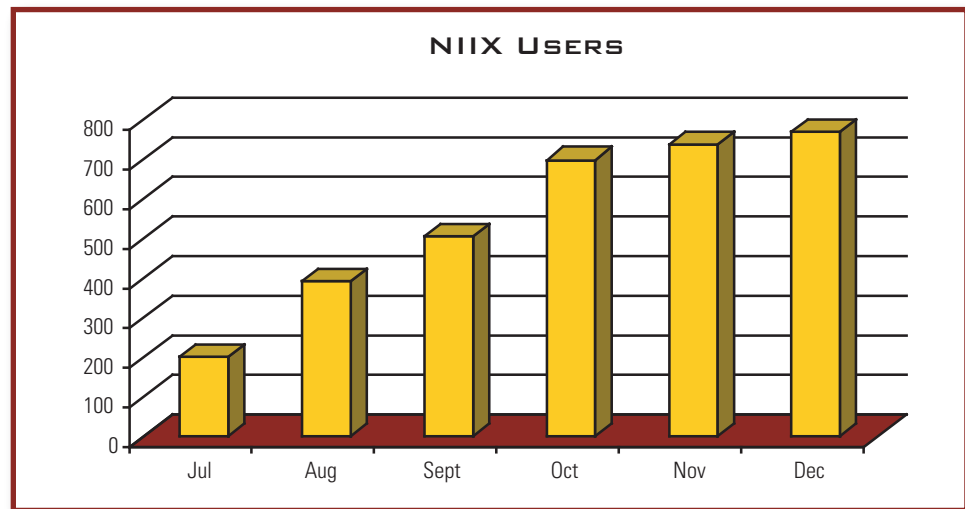
- November, NPSTC Recognition Certificates Presented to Broadband Working Group for outstanding work on the 700 MHz SoR; National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) joins Governing Board; CITIG becomes Associate Member; November, RPC Training, Atlanta, GA
- December, Invited National Emergency Number Association (NENA) to become Member
- Voted to form new Committee, the Public Safety Spectrum Trust Liaison Committee

## NPSTC HELPS STATEWIDE PLANNERS

In 2007 NTIA released the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. In conjunction with NTIA/PSIC, DHS required states and territories to develop and adopt a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) that described the current state of interoperability and future plans. In March, invited representatives from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and Washington, D.C. attended a Statewide Planning Workshop hosted by NPSTC, the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), and the National Governors Associations (NGA).



A questionnaire was sent to all states and territories requesting suggestions for tools to assist in preparing the plans. One of the highest needs identified by the states was for a secure, web-based national repository of other states' plans and related documents, and a secure, web-based mechanism for team sharing/modification. In response, NPSTC developed the National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX), a library of information resources and plans.



Growth in NIIX users from July-December 2007

NIIX has provided the centralized, secure warehouse for interoperable communications related information that statewide planners wanted. The NIIX workspace supports multiple communities and users within each community, providing the ability to customize community content. Administrators can easily contact community members to request feedback and comments on documents and to schedule online meetings.

***NIIX is not limited to statewide planning, but is available to serve state and local public safety users who need a collaborative tool***

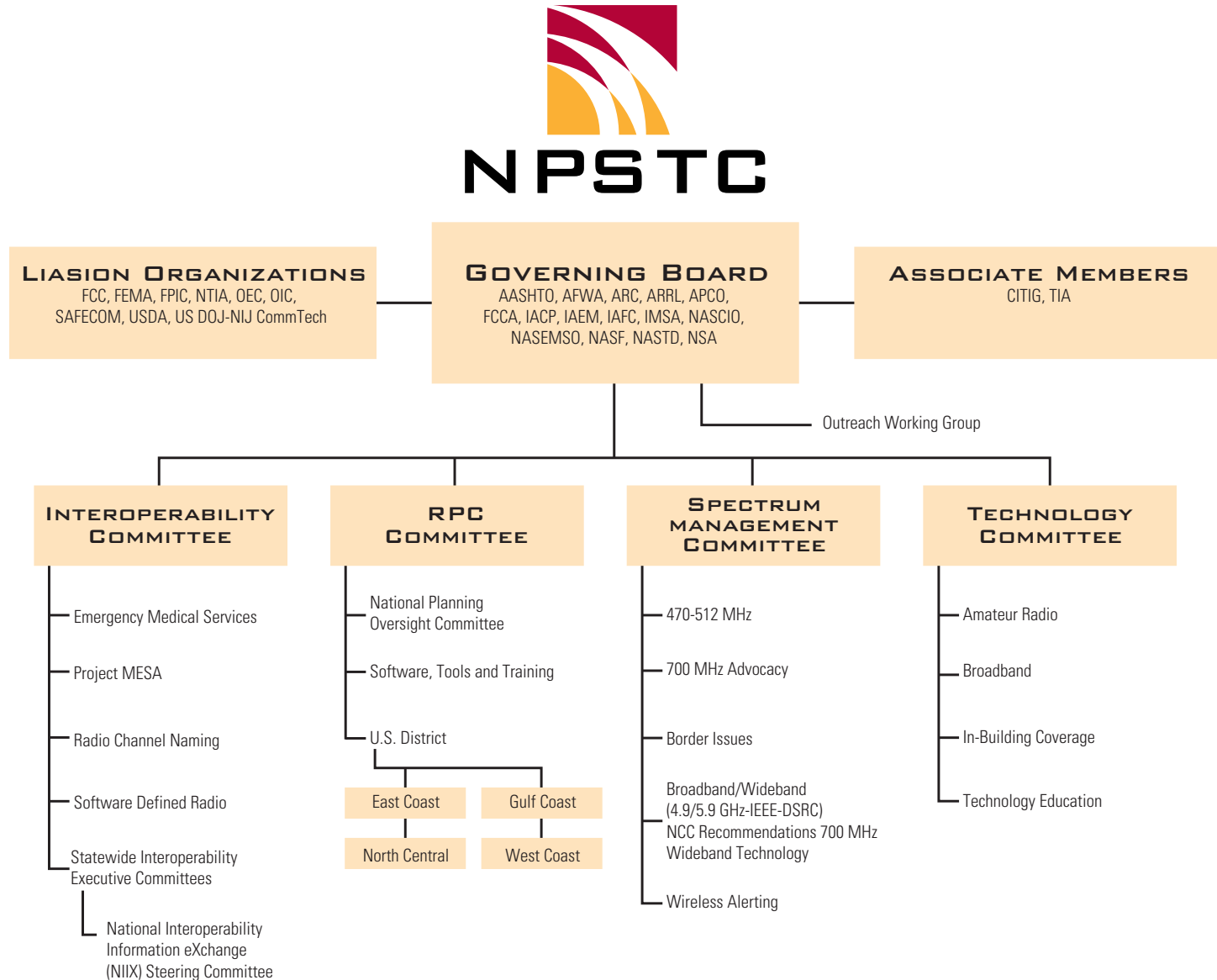
Latest numbers on NIIX—803 users in 55 states and territories—NIIX users range from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) regions and RPCs to Regional Communications Coalitions and Statewide Interoperability Executive Committees who use the centralized secure warehouse to share, review, edit, and finalize various documents.



# COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZATION CHART

NPSTC’s Executive Committee comprises a Chair, two Vice Chairs, and the four Committee Chairs, representing the Technology, Spectrum Management, Interoperability, and the Regional Planning Committees. The officers must be employees of a public safety or public service organization or a recognized organization that represents these entities. Each Committee fields a number of Working Groups. The Committees, generally through their Working Groups, are responsible for conducting research, writing position papers, and giving presentations at various meetings and conferences at the request of the Governing Board. The Working Groups interact extensively with one another and the member organizations via conference calls, listservs, and emails, but the face-to-face quarterly Governing Board and Committee meetings are critical opportunities for the expanded discussion needed to achieve group consensus. The Working Groups add knowledge and research, by reaching out to subject matter experts and developing positions for the Committee Chairs, who in turn forward those positions with their comments to the Governing Board for approval.

For more information on the specific activities and missions of the Working Groups, visit [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org).





## INTEROPERABILITY COMMITTEE

The NPSTC Interoperability Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize their interoperability effectiveness by promoting the concepts of governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training/exercises, and usage described in the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum.

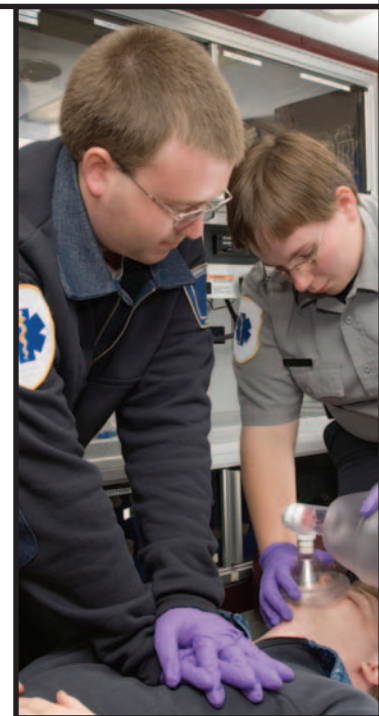
As new needs evolve and old issues are resolved, Working Groups are created and disbanded to meet the current needs. In 2007, the Interoperability Committee hosted five Working Groups. In addition to the **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)**, **Project MESA**, and **Software Defined Radio Working Groups**, the Committee added the **Radio Channel Naming Task Group**, which moved from the RPC Committee, and **Emergency Medical Services Working Groups**. During the year, the **Broadband Working Group** moved to the Technology Committee and the **Data Standards Working Group** was integrated into Broadband.

In 2007, the **Broadband Interoperability Working Group** began its research into broadband applications and standards. The **SIEC Working Group** formed a task group with the RPC Committee to develop the **Common Channel Naming Plan** for the interoperability channels and worked with the National Governors' Association to plan a **2007 Statewide Planning Meeting**. In response to the need identified at the Statewide Planning Meeting, the SIEC Working Group facilitated the development of NIIX, the collaborative secure warehouse for interoperable communications.

NPSTC participates in the important development of public safety telecommunication standards. NPSTC's members provide engineering and operational feedback to TIA on standards development, work on Project 25/Project 34 standards development, and participate in the international standards efforts of **Project MESA**.

The **Software Defined Radio (SDR) Working Group** has a strong voice in monitoring the development of SDR and Cognitive Radio (CR) through its relationship with SDR Forum. In 2007, SDRF's Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS-SIG) developed a report, *Use Cases for Cognitive Applications in Public Safety Communications Systems Volume 1: Review of the 7 July Bombing of the London Underground*, and researched how SDR and CR could specifically address some of the challenges to creating an economically viable public safety broadband network.

The **EMS Working Group** will develop a white paper on potential technologies with implications for bandwidth that might be used in the medical field in the future, and will develop standards on patient tracking data systems.





## REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES (RPC) COMMITTEE

The NPSTC Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee was created to meet the specialized needs of the RPC community. In 2007, the Committee supported three Working Groups, the **National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC)**, **Software, Tools and Training Working Groups**, and the four **U.S. District Chairs**. The **Common Channel Naming Working Group** moved to the Interoperability Committee and the **800 MHz Rebanding Support Working Group** was disbanded as its work was being supported elsewhere.

**In 2007, the Committee hosted RPC training on CAPRAD [Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database]** and sessions on TIA TSB-88 Based Frequency Coordination for RPCs and Managing Narrowband, Wideband, and Broadband Technologies, funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) through the Texas Sheriffs' Association. Twenty-three representatives from 15 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico received the hands-on computer training, joined by almost 50 other interested public safety participants, in the first session. Subsequent trainings drew similar numbers of participants.

In the third quarter, the RPCs created a separate organization, the National Regional Planning Committee (NRPC), supported by NIJ. As 2007 ended, the Governing Board replaced the RPC Committee with a new Committee to provide assistance to the RPCs in areas such as the 700 MHz narrowband relocation and RPC dispute resolution. The Committee will be called the **Public Safety Spectrum Trust Liaison Committee** and will include membership of the NRPC leadership, the U.S. District Chairs, and NPSTC's Committee Chairs.

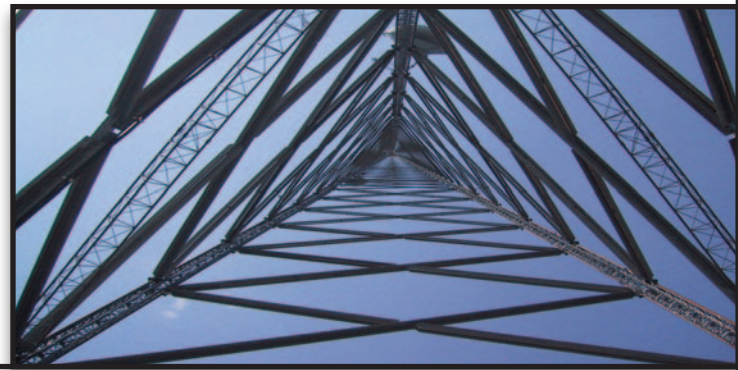




## SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The NPSTC Spectrum Management Committee focuses on regulatory and technical issues regarding the availability, effectiveness, and usability of public safety spectrum on a nationwide basis. The Spectrum Management Committee works, in conjunction with the NPSTC Governing Board, to provide NPSTC's perspective on outstanding public safety issues to the FCC.

In 2007, the Spectrum Management Committee supported five Working Groups, **700 MHz Advocacy, Border Issues, and Broadband/Wideband**. The **Wireless Alerting Working Group** moved from the Technology Committee to Spectrum Management and the **Spectrum Below 512 MHz** became the **470-512 MHz Working Group**, which is just beginning to develop its goals and objectives.



The **Broadband/Wideband Working Group** focused on technical issues surrounding all the ever-evolving changes in 700 MHz and ranged from intense work on a new band plan, to a response to the guard band licensees who proposed a completely different restructuring of the band, to the special task group that developed a new plan, the Broadband Optimization Plan. The work of developing requirements shifted to the Broadband Working Group under Technology as the FCC issued its 2nd R&O. Although **APCO Project 25 Interface Committee (APIC)** and the **800 MHz Rebanding** effort are not Working Groups, the Spectrum Management Committee monitors their activities.

The **700 MHz Advocacy Working Group** began a number of new initiatives in the fourth quarter that included monitoring the narrowband reconfiguration effort in 700, unresolved TV transition issues including Low Power TV (LPTV), and broadcast auxiliary such as wireless microphones, addressing new discrepancies in 700 MHz border agreements, the new guard band spectrum, and updates to the NCC Guidelines.

The **Border Issues Working Group** continued to interact with the State Department and DHS and to provide input to the SCTG. As the 700 MHz band plan changed, agreements will need to be reworked. The Working Group also closely follows issues associated with 800 MHz rebanding on the borders, and interference concerns with Mexico.

The **Wireless Alerting Working Group** is focusing its efforts currently on identifying unused Narrowband Personal Communication Service (NPCS) spectrum, and developing a strategy to allow public safety access to that NPCS spectrum. The Working Group will proceed based on research on the two-way paging system developed by the City of Richmond and the benefits of Part 24 and what it can bring to public safety.



## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The NPSTC Technology Committee was formed to ensure that the public safety and public service communities maximize their communications capabilities by facilitating the best possible utilization of current and future technologies. The Committee helps these communities to maintain a high degree of awareness of technological development, deployment, standardization, and regulation.

By the end of 2007, the Technology Committee supported four Working Groups. In addition to continuing to support the **Amateur Radio** and **In-Building Coverage Working Groups**, the Committee assumed the responsibilities of **Broadband** from the Interoperability Committee, and added one new Working Group, **Technology Education**.

The In-Building Working Group developed a white paper on the **Best Practices for In-Building Communications**. The white paper includes information designed to assist public safety agencies and industry in deploying reliable in-building communications, minimizing interference and gaining awareness about both local codes and new initiatives to develop national level model codes and standards.

As noted in the section on 700 MHz, the Broadband Working Group developed a **700 MHz Public Safety Statement of Requirements** to assist with the development of a nationwide interoperable broadband network for public safety agencies.



The **Amateur Radio Working Group** is developing a best practices white paper on the coordination of public safety and the amateur radio community and what is permitted of the amateur radio community during an emergency. It includes research on the issue regarding the regulatory environment with the FCC and also covers International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and TIA rules. The paper examines interoperability between the services and the common frequencies that could be used, with an examination of the technology differences between the amateur community and public safety.

The **Technology Education Working Group** will provide education to the community on various topics, including those related to FCC matters; using the 700 MHz, 4.9 GHz, 5.2 GHz, and 5.8 GHz bands for public safety communications; trunked, conventional, multi-site, and simulcast issues; and standards such as P25 and International Association of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Delivering the content will be accomplished through a variety of mechanisms including webinars, colloquiums, meetings, and publications.



## AN OPEN INVITATION

Your voice can become part of the collaborative work of NPSTC's member organizations to improve public safety telecommunications and interoperability. Although only the representatives of NPSTC's 15 Member Organizations make up the Governing Board and are entitled to vote, NPSTC Participants make a valuable contribution to the field nationally and locally, and to their organizations. NPSTC's ongoing dialogue on national public safety telecommunication issues affects the activities of your organization every day.

### **Anyone who is interested in public safety telecommunications is welcome to become a NPSTC Participant**

NPSTC actively seeks out the participation, expertise, and feedback of public safety and other individuals to be included among the many voices discussing and debating communications technology, interoperability, spectrum, planning, and policy and legislative issues. NPSTC Participants can share their points of view in numerous ways. If your schedule or cost constraints preclude you from attending our quarterly meetings, you may participate in the meeting via an open toll-free teleconference line, or throughout the year on our active listservs and teleconferences.

### **Get your voice heard: Become active in NPSTC today!**

NPSTC Participants are critical to its consensus process. As NPSTC seeks to understand the complex technical and policy issues surrounding many of the public safety telecommunications issues that the Council faces, the lively debate of issues from the NPSTC community and the viewpoints expressed at its quarterly meetings and listserv discussions are very important in providing as broad a base of informed input possible. The voices of NPSTC Participants shape public safety telecommunications, and we want you to have a voice in the community and the future of our profession. Join NPSTC and participate in the future of public safety communications.

**For more information, please contact us at [info@npstc.org](mailto:info@npstc.org) or call 866.807.4755.**

#### **Currently NPSTC is working on policies and issues in the following areas.**

- Securing additional spectrum resources
- Broadband in 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz
- Radio common channel naming
- Statewide planning
- Broadband voice and data interoperability
- Effective spectrum management and deployment
- Wireless alerting
- Amateur radio
- Software Defined Radio (SDR) and Cognitive Radio (CR) technologies
- Narrowband technology transition
- VHF spectrum reconfiguration
- US/Canadian/Digital Television (DTV) Transition for the 700 MHz band
- Standards development
- 800 MHz interference resolution and band reconfiguration
- Statewide Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs)
- 700 and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs)

## LEADERSHIP

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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#### **NPSTC Chair**

Vincent Stile

#### **NPSTC Vice Chair**

Douglas Aiken

#### **NPSTC Vice Chair**

Ralph Haller (7/07-12/07)

Harlin McEwen (1/07-7/07)

#### **Executive Director and Founding Chair**

Marilyn Ward

#### **Interoperability Committee**

Chair, John Powell

Vice Chair, Ralph Haller

#### **Regional Planning Committees (RPC) Committee**

Chair, Richard Reynolds

Vice Chair, Ronald Mayworm

#### **Spectrum Management Committee**

Chair, David Buchanan

Vice Chair, Stuart Overby

#### **Technology Committee**

Chair, Tom Sorley (7/07-12/07)

Glen Nash (1/07-7/07)

Vice Chair, Andy Thiessen



Governing Board Representatives and Alternates

### GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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**AASHTO**, William Brownlow, Alternate: George Carbonell

**AFWA**, Paul Leary, Alternate: Ralph Haller

**APCO**, Willis Carter, Alternate: Farokh Latif

**ARC**, Jay Ferron

**ARRL**, Dennis Dura, Alternate: Tom Abernethy

**FCCA**, Ralph Haller, Alternate: Paul Leary

**IACP**, Harlin McEwen, Alternate: John Powell

**IAEM**, Jim Weed

**IAFC**, Alan Caldwell, Alternate: Charles Werner

**IMSA**, Douglas Aiken, Alternate: Paul Szoc

**NASCIO**, Tom Jarrett, Alternate: Gopal Khanna

**NASEMSO**, Kevin McGinnis, Alternate: Shawn Rogers

**NASF**, Lloyd Mitchell, Alternate: Paul Leary

**NASTD**, Richard Reynolds, Alternate: Paul Hoppes

**NSA**, Aaron Kennard, Alternate: Paul Fitzgerald



Governing Board in Session

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

### NPSTC Welcomes Its Newest Members, the National Sherriffs' Association and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group.



The **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)** advocates transportation-related policies and provides technical services to support states in their efforts to efficiently and safely move people and goods. [www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org)



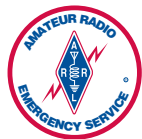
The **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)** serves as the “voice for fish and wildlife” by helping to foster a deep appreciation and understanding for the public management and conservation of the natural communities that represent the diversity of North America - fish, wildlife, and their habitats. [www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)



The **Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International (APCO)** is a member-driven association of communications professionals that provides leadership; influences public safety communications decisions of government and industry; promotes professional development; and fosters the development and use of technology for the benefit of the public. [www.apcointl.org](http://www.apcointl.org)



The **American Red Cross (ARC)**, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



The **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)**, a not-for-profit organization that promotes interest in amateur radio communications and experimentation, represents U.S. radio amateurs in legislative matters, and maintains fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among amateur radio operators. [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



The **Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG)** brings together representatives from public safety, industry, academia and government to help shape the direction of research and development activities related to interoperability amongst Canadian public safety providers. [www.cprc.org/citig/](http://www.cprc.org/citig/)



The **Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)** was formed to promote efficiency and advancement of radio communications in support of public agencies charged with natural resource conservation. [www.fcca-usa.org](http://www.fcca-usa.org)

The **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)** is the world's oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization of police executives, with over 20,000 members in over 89 different countries. IACP's leadership consists of the operating chief executives of international, federal, state, and local agencies of all sizes. [www.theiacp.org](http://www.theiacp.org)



The **International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)** is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com)



The **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)** is a network of more than 12,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Its members are the world's leading experts in fire fighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)



The **International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)** is the oldest known association of its kind in the world. Its objectives are to improve the efficiency, installation, construction, and maintenance of public safety equipment and systems by increasing the knowledge of its members on traffic controls, fire alarms, radio communications, roadway lighting, work zone traffic control, emergency medical services, and other related systems. [www.imsasafety.org](http://www.imsasafety.org)



The **National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)** represents state chief information officers and information technology executives and managers. State members are senior officials who have executive level and statewide responsibility for information technology management. [www.nascio.org](http://www.nascio.org)



The **National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO)** is the lead national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based, universal, and consistent EMS systems. [www.nasemsd.org](http://www.nasemsd.org)



The **National Association of State Foresters (NASF)** is a non-profit organization that represents the directors of all 50 State Forestry agencies, the eight U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Through public-private partnerships, NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources, and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment. [www.stateforesters.org](http://www.stateforesters.org)



The **National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD)**, Technology Professionals Serving State Government, is a member-driven organization whose purpose is to advance and promote the effective use of telecommunications technology and services to improve the operation of state government. [www.nastd.org](http://www.nastd.org)



The **National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)**, serving law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals of the nation for 67 years, is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among those in the criminal justice field. [www.sheriffs.org](http://www.sheriffs.org)



The **Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)** is the leading trade association for the information, communications, and entertainment technology industry. TIA serves industry suppliers to global markets through its leadership in standards development, domestic and international policy advocacy, and facilitating member business opportunities. [www.tiaonline.org](http://www.tiaonline.org)



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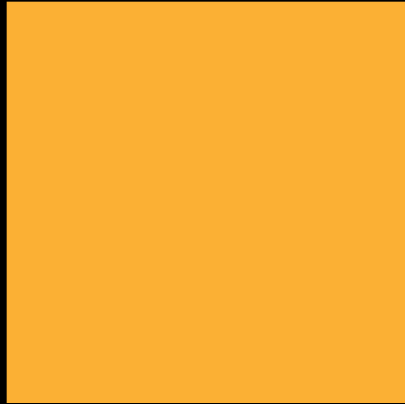
NPSTC's Support Office provides administrative, facilitation, decision support, outreach, and communications support to the Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups.

For more information, contact the NPSTC Support Office or visit the website at [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org).

Toll Free: 866-807-4755

Fax: 303-649-1844

Email: [info@npstc.org](mailto:info@npstc.org)



# NPSTC

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL  
8191 SOUTHPARK LANE | SUITE 205 | LITTLETON, CO 80120  
866-807-4755 TEL | 303-649-1844 FAX