

**National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)
Full NPSTC Meeting by Teleconference
November 10, 2015**

Welcome and Opening, Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair. Ralph Haller, Chair, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm ET. Participants were asked to send a record of their attendance to attend@npstc.org. He welcomed Michael Britt, new co-Vice Chair, Technology and Broadband Committee, and Brad Stoddard, new Governing Board representative from the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC). Bob Simmons, newly elected Chair, NCSWIC, said that either he or Mark Grubb will serve as NCSWIC alternates.

Federal Partners Update

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, John Merrill, Director. Mr. Merrill was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), Chris Essid, Deputy Director. Mr. Essid reported OEC just completed joint meetings of the NCSWIC and SAFECOM. He reported the T-Band issue was a major agenda topic as was the revitalization of the Communications Unit Leader (COML) and Communications Technician (COMT) programs, including how to certify the roles in the states. OEC is focused on updating their stakeholder-driven programs, including updating technical assistance. The absence of adequate grant funds is a problem for state representatives, who have asked for a program similar to the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) to rehabilitate statewide plans. Mr. Essid said the new DHS Deputy Secretary Mayorkas is paying attention to the issue of interoperability and he is being advised on the issue in bi-weekly conference calls.

Technology and Broadband Discussion, Tom Sorley, Committee Chair; Andy Thiessen and Michael Britt, Vice Chairs. Mr. Sorley said the Committee invited Mr. Britt to serve because of his experience and because Mr. Thiessen has been very busy with the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program and the international standards community. Mr. Britt has been very active in many of the Committee's Broadband Working Groups.

During the September Governing Board meeting, the Committee announced the addition of three new Working Groups: LMR to LTE, Broadband Emerging Technologies, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Robotics. Chris Kindlespire will chair the LMR to LTE Working Group and will work closely with PSCR. Kim Coleman-Madsen will serve as chair of Broadband Emerging Technologies. Mr. Sorley asked for the names of a potential chair for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Robotics. Marilyn Ward, Director, NPSTC, said NPSTC will issue a call for volunteers for all three of these Working Groups next week, and

hopes for the same volunteer response NPSTC has experienced with earlier Technology and Broadband Working Groups.

Mr. Sorley also reported that 3GPP Mission Critical Voice SA6 Working Group will meet in Anaheim, CA, on November 16, 2015.

FirstNet NPSBN Development

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Harlin McEwen, Chairman. Chief McEwen thanked NPSTC for the numerous reports that have been forwarded to the PSAC and on to FirstNet. The PSAC is reviewing NPSTC's Local Control report currently. The focus of the PSAC has been in three areas: priority and preemption, based on much of NPSTC's work; public safety grade, also underpinned by NPSTC work; and user equipment including handheld, mobile, and deployable devices. Regarding these devices, the PSAC has coined a new term, vehicular network systems, to encompass discussion of systems such as Cellular on Wheels (COWs) and systems within first response vehicles.

Chief McEwen reported the next FirstNet meetings are scheduled for December in Houston, TX. The FirstNet Board's committee meetings will be open to the public on the morning of Tuesday, December 8. The FirstNet Board meeting on the morning of December 9 will be open and the PSAC will host an open meeting that afternoon. The PSAC will hold a closed meeting on the morning of December 10.

Mr. Haller noted the recent glowing article in Police Chief magazine and on NPSTC's website, describing Chief McEwen's many contributions to public safety communications. Chief McEwen said he will be retiring as NPSTC's Governing Board representative from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Eddie Reyes is expected to serve as the new Governing Board representative from the IACP with Tom Roche, serving as alternate.

FirstNet, Kevin McGinnis, FirstNet Public Safety Board Member. Chief McGinnis added his appreciation regarding the important work Chief McEwen has accomplished in the past and in his continued role as Chair of the PSAC. FirstNet has added to their staff with subject matter experts in fire, EMS, 911, and law enforcement and has added two tribal members. FirstNet has completed consultations in 55 states and territories. Staff are collecting data from the states in the areas of coverage, users and operational areas, capacity planning, and procurement vehicles. Regarding the acquisition of the RFP to find a partner to build the network, FirstNet's Board made the decision to seek a single bid to move the project forward faster. A single builder will bring strength and quality to the network through a single vision for the network. FirstNet is continuing to ensure inclusion of the rural areas.

Spectrum Management Discussion, David Buchanan, Chair; Stu Overby, Vice Chair

T-Band Report Update, Stu Overby. The March 2015 T-Band report is in the process of being updated. Mr. Overby also reported on the T-Band at the SAFECOM/NCSWIC meeting, saying public safety needs to pay attention to this issue because other public safety spectrum bands could be similarly affected in the future. NPSTC is currently analyzing license cancellations/expiration since 2013 and is assessing the benefit of channels added from the 700 MHz reserve and 800 MHz expansion band. Additionally, NPSTC is updating information regarding mission critical voice on the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), reviewing cost estimate methodology for any changes, and providing more detail on

T-Band television broadcast operations. NPSTC expects to complete this report update in the First Quarter of 2016. Mr. Sorley asked if NPSTC or SAFECOM would be the most appropriate champion of the updated report on the T-Band. Mr. Overby said the National Council of Counties (NACO) expressed interest in a less technical outreach document also.

Railroad Police Interoperability Channel Access Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Stu Overby. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Railroad Police Interoperability Channel Access on September 1, 2015. Comments are due on November 13, 2015, with replies due on November 30. The Commission proposes to permit railroad police officers who are empowered to carry out law enforcement functions to be eligible users of the public safety interoperability and mutual aid channels. The NPRM does not address access to NPSBN. The NPRM was issued following a NPSTC submission of a Petition for Rulemaking in May 2014 to address these issues.

NPSTC's draft comments to the NPRM state the following:

- Supports the overall proposal;
- Supports the proposal to define eligible Railroad Police Officers based on definition in Federal Railroad Administration rules;
- Notes the need for simpler process than currently allowed;
- Supports blanket licensing of mobiles/portables, with the condition allowing use of interoperability and mutual aid channels in any area where the respective railroad operates; and
- Supports coordination with state or regional planning committees that administer interoperability/mutual aid channels.

APCO had a slightly different view of the issue which will be footnoted in NPSTC's comments to the FCC.

4.9 GHz Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, David Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan reported on the APCO 4.9 GHz Report filed with the FCC on September 28, 2015. The FCC is expected to issue a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in late 2015 or early 2016. APCO's 4.9 GHz Report included the work done earlier in NPSTC's 4.9 GHz Report. It also added good supporting details from various localities and provided lessons learned. Both NPSTC's and APCO's reports arrived at the same conclusion: The band needs frequency coordination. APCO's report included a discussion on ways to reduce barriers to public safety use of the 4.9 GHz band. Beyond licensing and availability, there is the issue of equipment that can be used in that band.

Interference Protection Working Group, Don Root, Interference Protection Working Group Chair. Mr. Root reported NPSTC is monitoring the LightSquared GPS testing. NPSTC has made process recommendations to the testing that were accepted by the LightSquared consultant. Mr. Haller said LightSquared's attorney Reed Hundt reached out to NPSTC. They will present at the NPSTC meeting at IWCE in March.

The Working Group continues to monitor cellular power levels in the 800 MHz, A and B Block. Carriers are attempting to acquire high power levels at low level sites, which can interfere with 800 MHz systems. The Working Group received an inquiry from the FCC's Enforcement Bureau on Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) interference. NPSTC issued a questionnaire on BDA interference, which has been forwarded to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. NPSTC received an isolated report from Michigan regarding

radio interference from body-worn cameras, which it is researching further. The Working Group is awaiting an FCC response to NPSTC’s letter on interference from energy efficient lighting.

Federal Communications Commission Public Safety Answering Point Architecture Task Force FCC, Bob Brown, Governing Board Representative. The PSAP Architecture Task Force was authorized by the FCC in December 2014 for a 2-year period that will end on December 2, 2016. NPSTC, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) have representatives on the 28-person Task Force. Three Working Groups are evaluating different issues relating to PSAP configuration, funding, and cyber security.

Working Group #1: Cyber Security, and Working Group #2: NG9-1-1 Architecture Implementation, are finalizing their reports. Working Group #3: Resource Allocation, has submitted their recommendations to the Task Force. The issue of consolidation is very complex and does not lend itself to an easy nationwide recommendation. The approach taken is “one size does not fit all” based on the variables identified. A predictable funding source that is technology neutral is needed at the local level for Next Generation (NG) activities. This is a complex issue that varies greatly on a state-by-state basis. With the NG9-1-1 technology comes “connectivity.” The legacy mindset of a “closed” and thus protected system is no more. With NG9-1-1 comes the even greater need for cyber security. On December 10, the Task Force will meet to vote on their work. After all the reports have been voted upon, another group will edit the final document, and, in January, the Task Force will host a final meeting to present all reports and vote on their acceptance.

FCC Filings, Stu Overby. Mr. Overby reported on NPSTC filings completed this year to date, providing some background on the reasons it was important for public safety to file comments.

July 13	Interference Dispute Resolution	Comments to FCC
July 6	Rules on Public Safety Airborne Use	Ex Parte to FCC
July 1	AT&T Waiver Request - Kansas	Comments to FCC
July 1	RF Interference from Lighting	Letter/Report to FCC
June 19	Waiver Request-Ultra Wideband	Comments to FCC
June 4	FirstNet Third Notice re PS Definition	Comments to FirstNet
June 8	800 MHz band Interstitials	Ex Parte to FCC
May 28	TIA Recon re P25 CAP at 700 MHz	Ex Parte to FCC

May 11	800 MHz Interstitials	Comments to FCC
April 30	AT&T Waiver Request, Missouri	Comments to FCC
April 28	FirstNet Second Notice re Opt-Out	Comments to FirstNet
February 23	TIA Recon re P25 CAP at 700 MHz	Reply Comments to FCC
February 20	Cellular Service Rules on Power	Reply Comments to FCC
February 17	Public Safety Interoperability	Letter to GAO
February 13	700 MHz Deployable Channels	Letter w/NRPC to FCC
January 5	Frequency Coordinator Certification	Comments to FCC

Mr. Buchanan reported the NPSTC/NRPC 700 MHz Trunked Deployables report is in use. LA-RICs will be the first recipient of a system ID/WACN as recommended in the report.

Federal Partners Update Continued

Federal Communications Commission Enforcement Bureau, Charles Cooper, Acting Field Director, FCC Enforcement Bureau. Mr. Cooper said the Enforcement Bureau (EB) asked for information on interference from BDAs and thanked NPSTC for their assistance in reaching out to public safety users.

Responding to the Commission’s order on July 16, Mr. Cooper said the Enforcement Bureau has reduced from 24 to 13 offices. This is an ongoing process, involving negotiations with field employees. On August 27, the FCC enhanced procedures for complaints with the announcement of a unified portal for EB to take in complaints. This is being developed currently. The EB is wrestling with the issue of how to categorize interference in three priority levels. Public safety will be considered high priority.

Regarding public safety complaints the EB has received, the EB is posting them on their website, twice a year, with tabulations of the complaints and how the EB responded to them, which is to occur within 1 day. To access the listing, go to the EB page, then quick links, documents, and on to public safety reports. So far they have tabulated results for 3 months, with 106 complaints, half from federal partners, the FAA, Coast Guard, and NOAA; 40 percent from local public safety; and the remaining from aviation and marine licensees. The EB was able to meet the response time of 1 day for all but one of these.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC), David Furth, Bureau Chief, Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB). Mr. Furth provided updates on the work of the PSHSB. The Bureau launched a public safety portal in September to enable public safety to contact the FCC on any matter of concern. The portal does not substitute or replace reporting other issues of concern, including complaints to the EB, but the Commission wanted a portal that would ensure rapid response to a public safety issue. So far several dozen inquiries have come in and been responded to in a timely fashion.

- Regarding the NPRM opening public safety channels to railroad police in response to an earlier NPSTC request, the comment due date is November 13, with replies due November 30.
- Regarding 4.9 GHz, the Bureau is expecting to move forward with its Further Notice by the end of the year, reflecting input the Bureau has received, including the NPSTC and APCO reports.
- Regarding 700 MHz narrowband, the Bureau is working on the Reconsideration order, relating to the certification process of the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP). The Bureau wants to collect additional information from vendors on how the CAP process works from their point of view for the record.
- The primary focus regarding 800 MHz rebanding is on Mexico. The Commission is working with Sprint and now, AT&T, which acquired old 800 MHz spectrum in Mexico. The Bureau is also moving forward with the proceeding opening up 800 MHz interstitial channels, from a Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) request.
- Last week the Bureau had a meeting with APCO regarding increased interference in the 800 MHz public safety band, which appears to be 4G deployments in the cellular A band. A contributing factor might be 800 MHz public safety radios in use that have open front ends that receive emissions from another band. The Bureau will investigate.
- The Report and Order (R&O) on 173 MHz vehicular repeaters (PS Docket 13-229) FCC released August 10 is not yet published in the Federal Register, but will be in the near future. The Bureau will first issue a short order that makes minor changes in the rules. Then we will consider the frequency coordination recommendations LMCC submitted September 30.
- The Bureau is continuing to work with FirstNet on clearing narrowband incumbents. FirstNet submitted an ex parte to the Commission asking the FCC to issue an Order requiring cessation of operation of licenses in FirstNet spectrum by July 2017. The Bureau issued a Public Notice (PN) on November 5 to request comments on the FirstNet ex parte, to be published in the Federal Register soon. Comments will be due 2 weeks following publication. The FCC is working closely with FirstNet on the relocation of the 15 narrowband incumbent licensees that are operating in FirstNet's spectrum. FirstNet is authorizing a grant program to assist that action.

Interoperability Discussion, John Lenihan, Interoperability Committee Chair; Don Root, Vice Chair
Chief Lenihan nominated two new Chairs of the Cross Border Working Group.

Motion and Vote: Aaron Kennard, National Sheriffs Association (NSA), moved to accept Steve Mallory, SWIC, State of Maine, as Cross Border Working Group Chair and Pascal Rodier, New Brunswick, Canada, as Vice Chair of Cross Border. Chris Lombard remains the west coast Vice Chair. Lloyd Mitchell, Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), seconded. Approved.

Chief Lenihan thanked Terry LaValley, Cross Border Working Group Chair, for his service.

Emergency Medical Services, Paul Patrick, Chair. Reporting for Mr. Patrick, Chief Lenihan said the EMS Working Group is editing a report based on an earlier questionnaire. The results have resulted in some fascinating information and surprising answers to some questions.

Cross Border Outreach Report, Barry Luke, NPSTC, Deputy Director. Reporting for Mr. Luke, Chief Lenihan reported NPSTC and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) issued a press release on November 10 announcing a two-page document that explains the treaty and subsequent letter of intent between the FCC and Industry Canada (IC).

The treaty between the U.S. and Canada signed in 1951 and ratified in 1952 allowed public safety agencies to operate their mobile radios as they approach the border and to continue using their mobile radio after they have crossed into the other country. This treaty did not specifically authorize the use of portable radios and was also silent on the need for data devices. On October 8, 2014, the two agencies signed a letter of intent which clarified the implementation of the treaty. Both countries have acknowledged that public safety agencies may also use portable radios at the border and across the border in the other country.

New Business

Ms. Ward announced the times and dates of NPSTC's future meetings.

- Teleconference: 1 – 3 pm ET, Thursday, January 21, 2016. The focus will be on the Interoperability Committee.
- In-Person Meeting, IWCE: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm PT, Friday, March 21, 2016. Sandy Dawkins, NPSTC Support, said she would be issuing a call for volunteers to work at the NPSTC booth during that week.

Ms. Ward said 76 people were on the line for this call. She asked for feedback from the Governing Board as to how well the teleconference meetings are working and for suggestions on improving the experience.

Adjournment. John Wright, APCO, moved to adjourn the meeting; Sheriff Kennard seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned.

Living Incident Management in South Carolina During Hurricane Joaquin, Lloyd Mitchell, NPSTC Governing Board Representative, Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)

Following the formal adjournment of the Governing Board meeting, Mr. Mitchell reported on the public safety response to flooding caused by Hurricane Joaquin in South Carolina. On October 1 to 5, 2015, South Carolina had a historic rainfall when Hurricane Joaquin lingered over the state. Eleven trillion gallons of rain fell. Mr. Mitchell's team responded to flooding in Richland County, home to 385,000

people and the state capital of Columbia. The team assembled at the Columbia Fire Department (FD) where the command team was successfully managing resources using the Incident Command Systems (ICS). Mr. Mitchell's team was tasked to do search and rescue, working with Columbia FD, helping to bring order out of chaos. They searched 619 square miles and handled logistics including meals, housing, and water. Public information was very important as people need to know what is going on.

Each morning and evening the divisions held a briefing. The divisions included supervisors from Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, Fire, Sheriff, boat teams, and the National Guard. Each division had city, county, and state law enforcement supervisors assigned. There were 30 to 60 people working in five divisions. Mr. Mitchell was logistics chief responsible for feeding locations and housing. He worked with the Salvation Army which brought in their portable kitchens and provided 1,000 breakfasts and 800 additional meals daily. They had to truck in drinking water, gasoline, diesel, and diapers. On Tuesday night as the rain lightened, four dams failed within minutes of each other. Although it was sad that homes were flooded or damaged, the team felt great relief that the homes were evacuated.

South Carolina has a statewide 800 MHz trunked system. In Columbia, it is a five site simulcast. With the many different jurisdictions all using the same system, they decided to operate two channels, one the command back to Columbia FD, the second an off channel system for each division. Interoperability worked well. Teams came in with 800 MHz radios with interoperability channels already programmed in.