



# FirstNet



## Public Safety Advisory Committee

### WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY (FIRSTNET)?

Signed into law on February 22, 2012, the **Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (Act)** created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The law gives FirstNet the mission to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety data communications.

FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet is governed by a 15 member Board consisting of the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and 12 members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The FirstNet Board is composed of representatives from public safety; local, state and federal government; and the wireless industry.

**WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)?** Under the Act, FirstNet was required to establish a **Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)**. In 2013, FirstNet established the PSAC consisting of 40 members who represent organizations from all disciplines of public safety as well as state, territorial, tribal, and local governments. There are also at large members and a federal member.

The mission of the PSAC is to assist FirstNet in carrying out its duties to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) in matters involving shared intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Specifically, the PSAC:

- Offers FirstNet guidance, information, and subject matter expertise, from a public safety perspective, to ensure that needs, requirements, and operational constructs necessary for critical public safety capabilities are included in the envisioned network
  - Provides subject matter expertise on concepts (e.g., policies, procedures, technologies, operational methods, etc.) developed by FirstNet
  - Conducts regular meetings to remain informed and up to date on FirstNet's progress
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## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A PSAC MEMBER?

PSAC members represent key stakeholder groups. PSAC members serve on a voluntary basis and may be asked to participate in task teams and working groups to contribute to concept documents and recommendation reports based on their experience and expertise. Participation in the PSAC is critical to assist FirstNet with the establishment of the NPSBN. PSAC members are expected, at a minimum, to attend two webinars and two in-person meetings per year. In addition to these four core PSAC meetings, there are also working group and task team in-person meetings and conference calls. Members are expected to keep their stakeholder groups informed and updated on PSAC activities that help to address the need to develop better technologies and processes for the multi-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PSAC EFFORTS?** Participation as subject matter experts on task teams and working groups is topic specific and continues until final reports or recommendations have been submitted to FirstNet by the PSAC Chair after receiving input/feedback from the full committee. Current ongoing efforts include:

### Task Teams

**Priority and Preemption:** FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC regarding an initial framework for implementing access prioritization, user preemption, and prioritized application use on the NPSBN.

**Public Safety Grade:** FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC regarding an initial methodology and framework for prioritizing and implementing public safety grade hardening recommendations for the NPSBN.

**User Equipment:** FirstNet is seeking advice from PSAC on functional objectives for and ergonomic considerations of Band 14 broadband user equipment that will meet the operational needs of first responders.

### Working Groups

**Tribal Outreach, Education, and Consultation Strategies:** A Tribal Working Group (TWG) comprised of representatives from a broad cross section of multi-tribal associations was established to provide FirstNet advice on tribal outreach, education, and inclusive consultation strategies to ensure participation by tribal jurisdictions in planning for the NPSBN.

**Early Builder Strategies and Lessons Learned:** An Early Builder Working Group (EBWG) comprised of representatives from Adams County, Colorado; Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), California; Harris County, Texas; New Mexico; and New Jersey was established to provide FirstNet with early builder strategies and lessons learned that will assist in planning efforts for the NPSBN.

## WHAT ASSIGNMENTS HAVE THE PSAC COMPLETED?

**Human Factors:** The PSAC analyzed the long range impacts of the NPSBN on the manner law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public safety communications centers operate and how they may be better served in addressing their duties once the network is built and operating. The Human Factors Report, submitted in November 2013, is available on the [FirstNet website](#).

**Application / Use Cases:** The PSAC developed use cases to illustrate how the envisioned technology, network, and applications will support the incident response by discipline (e.g., emergency medical services, fire, law enforcement). These use cases, available on the FirstNet website, were incorporated into design modeling efforts conducted by the FirstNet technical staff.

**Eligible Users:** The PSAC developed a list of proposed eligible users of the NPSBN and related definitions, which was used to inform the public notices FirstNet released related to the definition and scope of public safety entities qualifying for use of the NPSBN.

**WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE PSAC?** For questions on the PSAC and its activities, please contact [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) or visit the PSAC webpage.

## FirstNet Board

Chair Sue Swenson  
 Vice Chair Jeff Johnson  
 Secretary of Homeland Security (Designee Suzanne Spaulding)  
 U.S. Attorney General (Designee Ron Davis)  
 Director of the Office of Management & Budget (Designee David Mader)  
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 Kevin McGinnis, Annise Parker, Ed Reynolds, Rich Stanek, Teri Takai

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### FirstNet Staff

Mike Poth, CEO  
 TJ Kennedy, President

### PSAC Executive Committee

PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)  
 PSAC Vice-Chair Niles Ford (Fire Service-Metro Chiefs)  
 PSAC Vice-Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NAEMSO)  
 PSAC Vice-Chair Jimmy Gianato (State-NGA)  
 PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

### Public Safety Advisory Committee (40 Members)

#### Tribal Working Group

EC Liaison Paul Patrick  
 Richard D. Broncheau **CHAIR**  
 Michael Bird  
 Robert DesRosier  
 Harrell French  
 Adam Geisler  
 Gerad Godfrey  
 Randell Harris  
 Heather Hudson  
 Michael Lasiner  
 Patrick Melvin  
 Margaret Muhr  
 Mark Openshaw  
 Scott Stewart

#### Early Builder Working Group

EC Liaison Tom Sorley  
  
 New Mexico (NM)-Darryl Ackley **CHAIR**  
 Texas (TX)-Todd Early-**VICE CHAIR**  
 Adams County (CO)-Scott Lane  
 Los Angeles-Rics (CA)-Pat Mallon  
 New Jersey (NJ)-Fred Scalera

#### Public Safety Grade Task Team

Chris Lombard, **CHAIR**  
 Dan Eaton  
 Trey Forgety  
 Barry Fraser  
 Brent Lee  
 Gary McCarraher  
 Harlin McEwen  
 Jonathan Olson  
 Charlie Sasser  
 Tom Sorley  
 John Sweeney  
 Michael Varney

#### Priority and Preemption Task Team

Barry Fraser, **CHAIR**  
 Trey Forgety  
 Brent Lee  
 Chris Lombard  
 Mel Maier  
 Phil Mann  
 Gary McCarraher  
 Harlin McEwen  
 Mark Ryckman  
 Tom Sorley  
 Michael Varney



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 PSAC Vice-Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

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1. AASHTO ..... American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials ..... Paul J. Steinman
2. APCO ..... Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International ..... Brent Lee
3. APWA ..... American Public Works Association..... Philip R. Mann
4. FCCA..... Forestry Conservation Communications Association..... Lloyd Mitchell
5. GHSAC..... Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council ..... Guy Cameron
6. IAB ..... Interagency Board ..... Captain Christopher Lombard
7. IACP ..... International Association of Chiefs of Police..... Chief Harlin McEwen
8. IAEM..... International Association of Emergency Managers..... Joseph R. Sastre
9. IAFC ..... International Association of Fire Chiefs ..... Chief Gary McCarraher
10. ICMA..... International City/County Management Association ..... Mark L. Ryckman
11. IMSA..... International Municipal Signal Association ..... Paul Szoc
12. MCC..... Major Cities (Police) Chiefs Association ..... Chief Scott Edson
13. MCSA ..... Major County Sheriffs' Association ..... Mel Maier
14. Metro Chiefs.... Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association ..... Chief Niles Ford
15. NACo ..... National Association of Counties ..... Timothy Loewenstein
16. NAEMT ..... National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ..... Don Lundy
17. NARC ..... National Association of Regional Councils ..... Steve Cassano
18. NASCIO ..... National Association of State Chief Information Officers..... Darryl Ackley
19. NASEMSO ..... National Association of State EMS Officials ..... Paul R. Patrick
20. NASNA ..... National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators..... Richard Taylor
21. NASTD ..... National Association of State Technology Directors..... Charlie Sasser
22. NATOA ..... National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors ..... Barry Fraser
23. NCAI ..... National Congress of American Indians..... Richard D. Broncheau
24. NCJA ..... National Criminal Justice Association ..... John M. Sweeney
25. NCSL..... National Conference of State Legislatures ..... Daniel A. Eaton
26. NCSWIC ..... National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators..... Michael Varney
27. NEMA ..... National Emergency Management Association..... Director Glenn Cannon
28. NEMSMA..... National EMS Management Association ..... Jonathan Olson
29. NENA ..... National Emergency Number Association ..... Trey Forgety
30. NGA ..... National Governors Association..... Jimmy Gianato
31. NLC ..... National League of Cities ..... Tony Anderson
32. Nlets ..... The International Justice and Public Safety Network ..... Steve Correll
33. NPSTC..... National Public Safety Telecommunications Council ..... Chief Douglas Aiken
34. NSA ..... National Sheriffs' Association..... Sheriff Larry D. Amerson
35. NVFC ..... National Volunteer Fire Council ..... Chief Reid Vaughan
36. SEARCH..... National Consortium of Justice Information Statistics..... Michael Jacobson
37. USCM..... U.S. Conference of Mayors ..... Tom Sorley
38. At Large ..... SAFECOM EC ..... Steven H. Proctor
39. At Large ..... Fire Non-Management First Line Responder..... Div Chief Mike Worrell
40. At Large ..... Police Non-Management First Line Responder ..... Vacant
41. At Large ..... Police Non-Management First Line Responder ..... James N. Mann
42. Federal..... FirstNet ..... Vicki Lee