



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE

The **Public Safety Advocacy Update** comes to your inbox with a quick look at events and information you need to stay up to date with the First Responder Network Authority.



Featured Advocacy Activity:

Guam Engagement Highlights FirstNet's Ability to Optimize Public Safety Communications on Island Communities



Last week, the First Responder Network Authority held an Agency Operations and Technology Workshop in Tamuning, Guam, with nearly 80 public safety stakeholders in attendance. Local, federal, and military agencies participated in the conference with representation from Guam's emergency management, fire, police, DoD, and military. Representatives from American Samoa and Hawaii also participated in the conference.

The workshop focused on existing public safety operations on the island and aimed to identify communications challenges and current capabilities that could be augmented by a broadband network dedicated to public safety. Participants identified technologies used for response efforts and communications gaps in the delivery of public safety services during a typhoon-type event.

First Responder Network Authority's **Fay Alailima-Rose** led a presentation on broadband data use in public safety operations, background and history of the organization and partnership, and current and future service deployment of FirstNet service on Guam. Director of Federal and National

Programs **Chris Algiere** followed with information on efforts undertaken by the First Responder Network Authority to promote broadband use by public safety and to help inform the design of the FirstNet network and services.

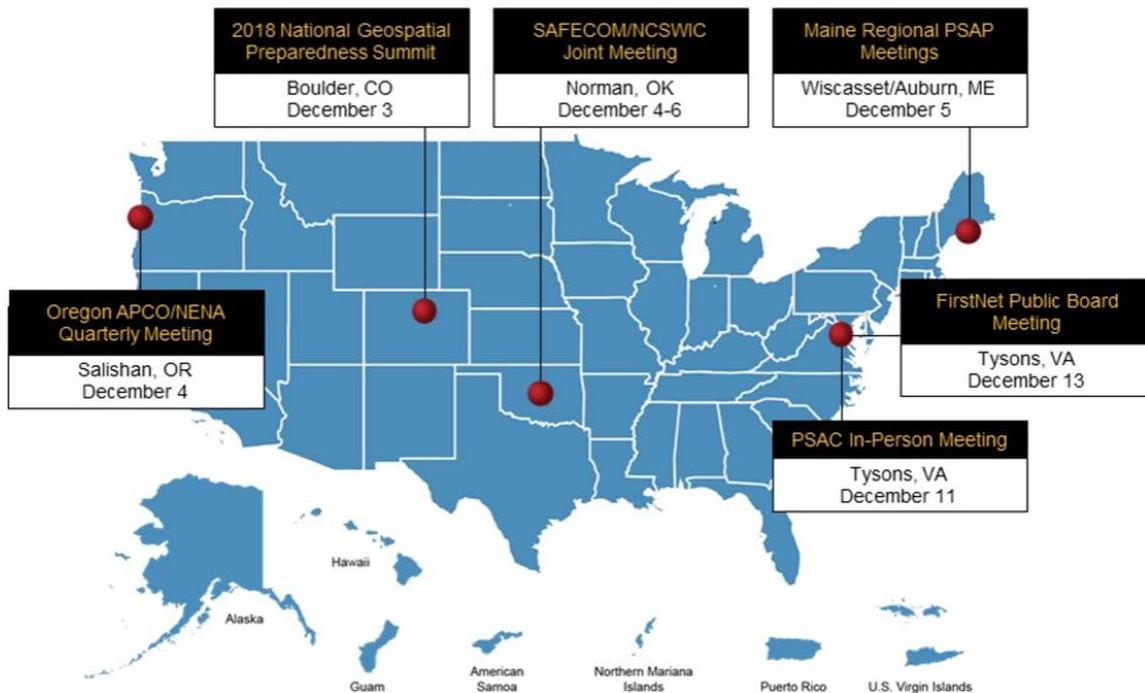
During the afternoon sessions, Algiere, Alilima-Rose, and West Area Director **Mike Worrell** led discipline-specific breakout sessions in emergency management, law enforcement, and fire services to discuss how public safety agencies in Guam use communications during typhoon and tsunami response. These sessions mapped out the various technologies used within and across the three disciplines and identified gaps or needs for better interoperability. The sessions touched on a common concern for Guam first responders lagging behind mainland counterparts when adopting new communications technologies.

Due to the island's size and isolation, first responders rely heavily on existing systems, commercial services like Google Maps and WhatsApp for mapping and interoperability, and local knowledge of geography and infrastructure.

Overall, the workshop provided an opportunity for the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T to better understand public safety operations in Guam. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to better understand how the FirstNet solution could enhance operations in the future.



Select Upcoming Public Safety Advocacy Engagements



FirstNet in Action

Todd Early appointed as Public



Safety Advisory Committee Chair

On Nov. 20, **Todd Early** was appointed as the new Chair of the First Responder Network Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). Early has represented the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC) since 2015 and is currently the

Governor-appointed State Point of Contact (SPOC) for Texas. [Learn more about Early](#) and his new position with the PSAC.



Public Safety First Podcast Episode 13: Public Safety, Drones and Situational Awareness

In the latest episode of *Public Safety First*, host **Dave Buchanan** talks with Captain **Craig Schwartz** of the Santa Rosa Police Department. Schwartz discusses how drones can help law enforcement gain better situational awareness in life-threatening situations such as search-and-rescue, active shooter scenarios, and tactical SWAT deployments. [Listen here.](#)



FirstNet in the News

NATIONAL COVERAGE

[Important Technology, Mobility, and Vehicle Options Every First Responder Must Know for 2019](#) (*JEMS*, Nov. 29)

As 2018 ends, it brings a series of goodbyes for some technology tools, mobility equipment and vehicle types that have become go-to favorites among first responders. To assist its first responder customers, Island Tech Services (ITS) is providing information about upcoming End of Life (EOL) and End of Sales (EOS) for products and services that first responders should know. Today, first responders should consider 4G LTE Advanced Pro (Cat 12) modems which includes AT&T FirstNet-capable modems. The 4G LTE Advanced Pro modems increase the downlink and uplink data rates available for the user. The AT&T FirstNet Service provides LTE data rates and network priority and preemption when they're needed.

[UAS: Charles Werner says public-safety drone use exceeding expectations](#) (*Urgent Communications*, Nov. 28)

Charles Werner, chair of the National Council on Public Safety UAS, explains how public safety is rapidly increasing its use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) – often known as drones – for a variety of purposes, including the enhancement of situational awareness, search-and-rescue efforts and communications coverage. Werner also discusses challenges associated with UAS deployments and the potential future uses, such as drone ambulances. He also mentions AT&T FirstNet's use of drones.

[The 100 Greatest Innovations of 2018](#)

(*Popular Science*, Nov. 27)

Ambulances, fire trucks, and police cruisers can turn on their sirens to cut through traffic in an emergency, but the first responders' phones can still get jammed up. A FirstNet SIM card gives them the equivalent of flashing lights on a mobile network. Rolled out this year on AT&T towers, the system puts messages and calls from registered responders on a dedicated (and uncrowded) band of the wireless spectrum.

[First Responder Network Committee Appoints Chairman](#)

(*Homeland Preparedness News*, Nov. 26)

The First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) recently appointed Todd Early as its new chairman. Early has more than 25 years of leadership experience in public safety. He is Texas' contact person for public safety communications and is assistant chief of the Law Enforcement Support Division for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

[NTIA Closes SLIGP 1.0 Grant Program Focused on FirstNet Opt-In Decision](#)

(*Mission Critical Communications*, Nov. 21)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) marked the end of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), saying the grant program helped lay the groundwork for First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) success.

[Todd Early Appointed as New Chair of FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee](#)

(*Urgent Communications*, Nov. 20)

Longtime public-safety-broadband proponent **Todd Early** of Texas is the new chair for the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), FirstNet Authority Chair **Ed Horowitz** announced today. Early, who has been a PSAC member since 2015 and has been serving on the PSAC executive committee, replaces Interim PSAC Chair **Paul Patrick**, who recently was selected to serve on the FirstNet Authority board.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

[FirstNet Build Creates Opportunities and Challenges for Rural Wireless Operators](#)

(*Growing Tennessee*, Nov. 29)

The buildout of FirstNet, a new nationwide public safety broadband network, will enable rural wireless operators to evolve their business model with AT&T from roaming agreements to infrastructure-based models. The shift is expected to provide a more reliable and predictable revenue stream for local wireless operators. However, the long-term competitive threat of AT&T entering new rural markets and building out its distribution presence should not be ignored.

[FirstNet helps those who work tirelessly to protect us](#)

(*Des Moines Register*, Nov. 28)

When we turn to first responders, they must be able to rely on the technology they use. Now first

responders can get a new tool to count on when seconds matter most: FirstNet. A little over a year ago, Governor **Kim Reynolds** announced that Iowa would be the fifth state to opt-in to FirstNet. Now, all 50 states, 5 territories and Washington D.C. have opted-in to the communications platform. The importance of this decision cannot be overstated, but many people may still be wondering: what is FirstNet?

[Rezoning for 300-foot Cell Tower Inches Forward](#)

(*Journal Express*, IA, Nov. 28)

Plans to build a 300-foot cell phone tower west of Bussey inched forward Tuesday, but Marion County supervisors say they'll proceed with caution. The tower would be built primarily for use by FirstNet, a nationwide wireless broadband network affiliated with AT&T that focuses on public safety. Tuesday's discussion was the first of three required readings for the project's rezoning application.

[Guam to Mark Counter Terrorism Awareness Week](#)

(*The Guam Daily Post*, Nov. 21)

The Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense invite the community to mark Counter Terrorism Awareness Week between Nov. 25 and Dec. 1. Throughout the week, GHS/OCD will hold multiple mission-specific events including the Guam Public Safety Broadband Workshop with FirstNet, Nation State Threat Workshops for senior leaders and operational planners and various working group meetings, covering topics such as: active shooter; cybersecurity; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives defense; critical infrastructure; public health and medical; and emergency management.



Be social with FirstNet



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Nov 27

FirstNet makes the [#BestOfWhatsNew](#) 100 GREATEST INNOVATIONS of 2018 by Popular Science Magazine @PopSci "the year's most pivotal, influential, and just plain awesome innovations-- effects of each of these feats will reverberate for years down the road."



The 100 greatest innovations of 2018

Our 31st annual Best of What's New list is the culmination of a year spent obsessing over, arguing about, and experiencing the newest technologies...

popsci.com



NTIA @NTIAgov · 4h

In emergencies, first responders need communication tools that are tested and proven to work – consistently, securely, reliably and smoothly. The #FirstNet lab is a premier telecommunications technology lab where innovation comes to life



Introducing FirstNet's Innovation and Test Lab

FirstNet Boulder Lab US Department Commerce Grand Opening
youtube.com

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FirstNet Board Chair Edward Horowitz @FirstNetChair · 20h

Pleased to have FirstNet named to @PopSci's #BestofWhatsNew 2018. So proud of the #FirstNet team who has driven this effort to reality. We are honored to serve the nation's #publicsafety community with the dedicated #firstresponder network

FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov

FirstNet makes the #BestOfWhatsNew 100 GREATEST INNOVATIONS of 2018 by Popular Science Magazine @PopSci "the year's most pivotal, influential, and just plain awesome innovations-- effects of each of these feats will reverberate for years down the road." popsci.com/best-of-whats-...

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APWA Gov't. Affairs @APWAGovAffairs · 22h

"Reliable communications networks are key, and we hope that FirstNet will enable communities across the nation to better share information across departments and agencies. When you have that reliable communication system, it lends itself to a safe community." - @APWAMarty



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Minnesota ECN @MnDPS_ECN · Nov 24

👮 + 🚒 + 🚓 + 🚑 + 🚚. They work together to respond to our emergencies every day — including holidays. That's a lot of coordination.

Now, MN first responders are adopting into a wireless broadband network called #FirstNet that aims to make that easier.



Hear What Public Safety Leaders Are Saying About...

From Baltimore to Oklahoma to Hawaii and points in between, public safety leaders are speaking out about why they need the FirstNet network. "We're blowing u...
youtube.com

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FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Nov 24

FirstNet's Innovation and Testing Lab is working to ensure the network delivers now and in the future for America's first responders. #publicsafety #innovation #WeServeYou



FirstNet Technical HQ: Now and in the Future

The FirstNet technical HQ is a premier technology innovation and test lab, working to ensure the network meets the needs of first responders now and in the future.

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FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Nov 20

Help us congratulate Todd Early on his new appointment to Public Safety Advisory Committee #PSAC Chair -- Todd has a long history of working to ensure #publicsafety's input informs @FirstNet progress. @txlte
MORE-> firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...



Todd Early and Edward Horowitz participate in a 2016 PSAC meeting with FirstNet.

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EMS1 @EMS1 · Nov 19

Phase 2 of #FirstNet Planning Grants Will Support 12 States | from @effgov
buff.ly/2FGDP07



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FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Nov 19

We are thankful for America's first responders who will begin and end their #ThanksgivingWeek like this. #EverydayHeroes #WeSeeYou

@TheIACP @IAFC @NAEMT_ @NationalSheriff @NVFC @NASEMSO @APCOIntl



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