



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:

PSAC and First Responder Network Authority Board December 2018 Meetings



On December 11, the First Responder Network Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) met in Tysons, Virginia. More than 30 PSAC members came together to discuss the First Responder Network Authority's strategic plan and vision, 2018 accomplishments, and network plans and public safety engagement in 2019. New PSAC Chairman **Todd Early** led the daylong meeting and dialogue, supported by Executive Committee members Chief **Mike Duyck**, and newly appointed members **Jon Olson** and **Danae Wilson**.

To more quickly meet the needs of the First Responder Network Authority and network partner, AT&T, on critical network topics, products, and services, the PSAC will launch "Strike Teams," an updated functioning of the legacy task teams to address pressing questions regarding public safety's use of the network. The PSAC leadership and First Responder Network Authority discussed plans to work together to focus on the most important network issues to public safety.

In the new year, the PSAC pledged to continue collecting and spreading the word on FirstNet case studies on subscriber use of the network. PSAC members also expressed enthusiasm to continue working closely with the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T as they continue to make progress in deploying public safety's network.

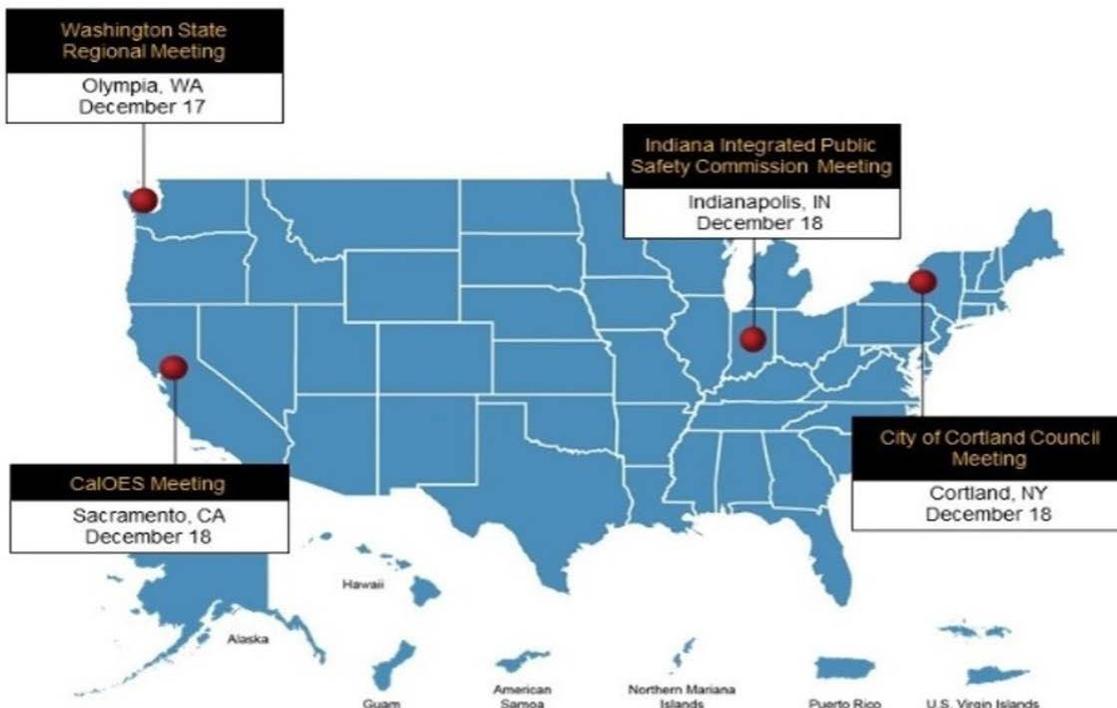
Also this week, the First Responder Network Authority Board held an open public meeting to welcome new Board members, highlight key 2018 accomplishments, and outline plans for future innovation and investment. The Board also emphasized that continuing to receive public safety input is vital for network growth and improvement.

Overall, the week of meetings provided an opportunity for the PSAC Committee to highlight its successful 2018 efforts to support and grow the nation's first public safety broadband network. The meetings also gave participants an opportunity to learn about expectations for network use and operations in 2019.

Thank you to all participants and attendees. On behalf of the First Responder Network Authority, we wish you and your families a very happy and healthy new year.



Select Upcoming Public Safety Advocacy Engagements



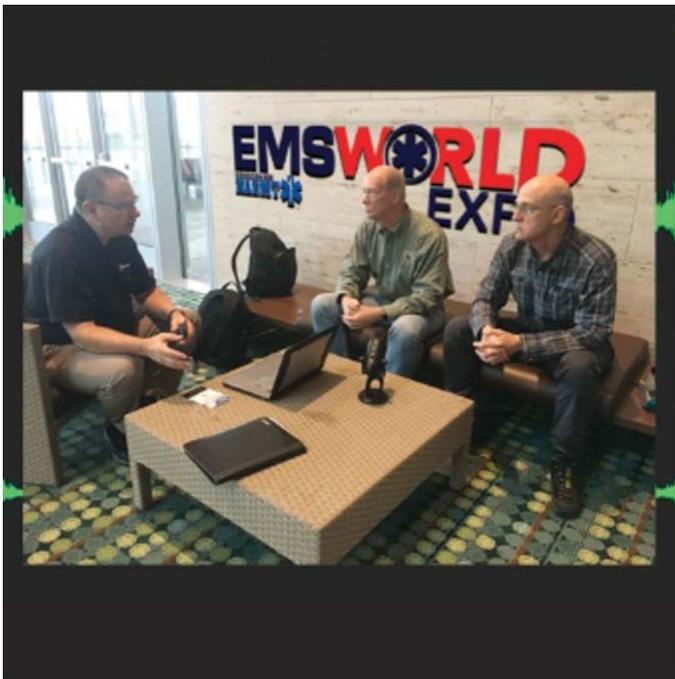
FirstNet in Action

FirstNet highlights from Guam workshop



During the week of Nov. 26, nearly 80 public safety stakeholders gathered at the First Responder Network Authority's Agency Operation and Technology Workshop in Tamuning, Guam. The workshop focused on identifying the challenges of Guam's public safety communications and educating participants on how the FirstNet

network would close gaps. To learn more about the workshop, read [FirstNet's blog post](#).



Public Safety First Podcast: Episode 14

In the latest episode of the Public Safety First podcast, Senior EMS Advisor, Brent Williams speaks with Plain Township, OH, Assistant Fire Chief Jack Rupp and EMS Medical Director for Central Ohio's Metropolitan Emergency Communications, Dr. Paul Zeeb about FirstNet's impact on patient care.

The interview provides a glimpse into the future of EMS technologies and learn how broadband connectivity will enable emerging technology in the world of EMS. [Listen to the full episode](#).



FirstNet in the News

NATIONAL COVERAGE

[FirstNet 'primarily' being used for voice communications to date, AT&T exec says](#) (*Urgent Communications*, Dec. 12)

Most FirstNet public-safety subscribers are using their broadband connectivity to support voice communications, and AT&T is utilizing the installation of gear to support operations on the 700 MHz Band 14 spectrum licensed to FirstNet to help prepare the carrier's introduction of 5G services next year, according to an AT&T executive. AT&T President of Operations Scott Mair made the statements last week during the Barclays Global Technology Media and Telecommunications Broker

Conference, where he also reiterated the importance of the FirstNet deployment in the carrier's overall network plans.

[New FirstNet Board members sworn in](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Dec. 12)

Seven new or reappointed First Responder Network Authority board members were officially sworn in Dec. 11 by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. The board oversees the activities of FirstNet to ensure that its public-private partnership with AT&T continues to develop, build and operate a nationwide public-safety broadband network.

[US Department of Commerce welcomes new FirstNet Board Members](#) (Department of Commerce Press Release, Dec. 11)

Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross conducted the official swearing-in of seven new or re-appointed members to serve on the Board of the FirstNet Responder Network Authority. The Board oversees the activities of FirstNet to ensure that its public-private partnership with AT&T continues to successfully develop, build, and operate a nationwide broadband network that will equip first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities.

[AT&T says network performance during disasters led to FirstNet customer adds](#) (*RCRWireless News*, Dec. 11)

Speaking during the recent Barclays Global Technology, Media and Telecommunications Conference, Scott Mair, president of AT&T Operations, provided an update on FirstNet adoption and how that \$40 billion network build sets the stage for 5G. Referencing hurricanes Michael and Florence, as well as wildfires in California, Mair said AT&T's network performed really, really well, and noted that others carriers impacted by the storm used AT&T's network. "Performance always brings in an opportunity to sign people up." He tallied 3,600 first responder agencies, comprising some 250,000 lines, as the current FirstNet customer base.

[Home Office officials visit FirstNet's Reston Office](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Dec. 11)

Officials from the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) hosted their U.K. counterparts from the Home Office 6 December. The Home Office is overseeing the U.K.'s transition from a nationwide public-safety TETRA network to a planned nationwide Long Term Evolution (LTE) network for the country's first responders. Home Office officials visited FirstNet at its office in Reston, Virginia, according to a tweet from FirstNet Acting CEO Edward Parkinson.

[AT&T taps synergies between its 5G and FirstNet build-outs](#) (*SDX Central*, Dec. 7)

AT&T's President of Operations Scott Mair said this week that he has three priorities: the company's FirstNet emergency responder network; its network upgrade to 5G; and the carrier's ongoing fiber build. But luckily, the FirstNet build-out is actually helping with the 5G build-out.

[New FirstNet Chair Horowitz encouraged by progress, outlines 'FirstNet 2.0' plans](#) (*Urgent Communications*, Dec. 7)

Leaders of U.S. public-safety organizations are "thrilled" with AT&T's development of the FirstNet system and want the FirstNet Authority to continue its advocacy for first responders—a cornerstone of the organization's "FirstNet 2.0" strategy that will be unveiled next week, according to FirstNet board Chair Ed Horowitz. Since being named FirstNet board chair in late August, Horowitz said he has met with the leadership of numerous public-safety associations, many of whom have worked for more than a decade in hopes that a nationwide public-safety broadband network (NPSBN) would become reality.

[10 best security innovations of 2018](#) (*i-HLS*, Dec.7)

During the year, you may have seen before news articles about some of these ground-breaking technologies at iHLS website. FirstNet by First Responder Network Authority & AT&T – First responders' phones can get jammed up. This new system puts messages and calls from registered responders on a dedicated (and uncrowded) band of the wireless spectrum. If someone's outside the range of the upgraded towers, their FirstNet SIM sends a message to the LTE network to prioritize its signal over other civilians.

[AT&T completes 1/3 of FirstNet buildout, 6 months ahead of schedule](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Dec. 6)

AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson said the company has completed one-third of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) buildout, and the carrier is six months ahead of schedule of the buildout requirements in the FirstNet contract.

[Orion Labs' PTT app now FirstNet certified, available to subscribers](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Dec. 5)

Orion Labs' Push to Talk iOS 5.2.8 mobile application is now First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) certified and included in the FirstNet App Catalog. First responders can use the voice communications platform with FirstNet's priority access and pre-emption services.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

[More police, reliable WiFi among recommendations for 2019 Pilgrimage Festival](#) (*The Tennessean*, TN, Dec. 11)

Recommended changes for planning next year's Pilgrimage Music and Cultural Festival were presented to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen at the board's work session on Tuesday. One of the biggest issues that arose this year was the lack of WiFi reliability, said Todd Horton, deputy fire chief and head of emergency management for the City of Franklin. The spotty connections stifled responders' ability to maintain consistent video surveillance during the evacuation, and made it more difficult for attendees to stay informed with real-time updates. Therefore, the action plan recommends that Franklin officials consider using the FirstNet network for future events.

[Small cells & 5G to improve LA's communications](#) (*EfficientGov*, CA, Dec. 7)

The city of Los Angeles is partnering with AT&T and installing small cells in part to improve emergency response. That's in addition to FirstNet capacity provided to LA's public safety community through the network's Band 14 spectrum, and integration of assets from the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System. The comprehensive Smart Cities agreement, announced in September, addresses a number of city priorities. As an initial step, however, AT&T is deploying small cells to enhance existing voice and data capacity in LA to establish a 5G network.

[FirstNet platform enhances wireless communications for first responders](#) (*The Oklahoman*, Dec. 6)

FirstNet provides public safety with enhanced situational awareness, empowering them to use data in new ways via connected devices and tools, apps, video and more.

[AT&T invests more than \\$57 million over 3-year period to boost local networks in Austin](#) (AT&T Press Release, TX, Dec.6)

In 2017, AT&T made 253 wireless network upgrades in the Austin area that included a new cell site and boosting network capacity. "Texas is one of the best places for tech startups but this depends on a foundation laid by the capital investments large corporations are making across our region,"

said Joshua Baer, founder & CEO of Capital Factory.



Be social with FirstNet

Introducing @FirstNetGov on Instagram!

Check out the First Responder Network Authority's NEW Instagram account, where you can share news and updates about the impact of FirstNet and the work of the FirstNet team. [Follow @FirstNetGov on Instagram.](#)

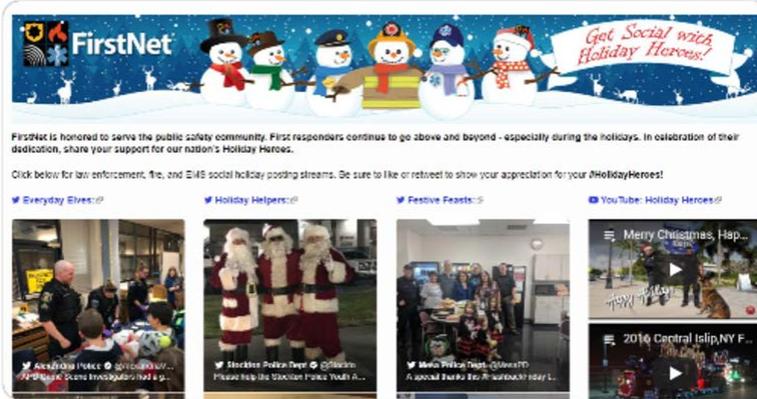




FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Dec 4

FirstNet [#HolidayHeroes](#) collection is back! Help us recognize public safety giving back to their communities during the holidays.

Visit firstnet.gov/holiday-heroes and share your favorite Holiday Hero story.



2 8



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · 15h

Tune in TOMORROW at 11am ET: [#FirstNet](#) Board to hold quarterly meeting in Tysons, VA. Livestream here -->



FirstNet Authority Combined Committee and Board...

MEETING INFORMATION: The Board of the First Responder Network Authority (Board) and the Board Committees will convene an open public meeting of th...
firstnet.gov

6 8



Edward Parkinson @EdPFirstNet · Dec 11

[@SecretaryRoss](#) swearing in the new [@FirstNetGov](#) board members. [@FirstNetChair](#) and [@NTIARed](#) providing remarks. [#firstnet](#) [#publicsafety](#) [#fire](#) [#lawenforcement](#) [#EMS](#)



17 28



U.S. Commerce Dept. @CommerceGov · 22h

Earlier today, @SecretaryRoss participated in the ceremonial swearing-in of the recently appointed First Responder Network Authority board members. Through its public – private partnership with @ATT, @FirstNetGov is rapidly deploying a new nationwide network for #publicsafety.



Sec. Wilbur Ross, FirstNet Authority, NTIA and David Redl

2 18 27



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · 2h

#FirstNet PSAC Chair Todd Early kicks off Public Safety Advisory Cmte meeting with @FirstNetChair Edward Horowitz & Acting CEO @EdPFirstNet. Reps from nat'l #publicsafety associations hear network update, plan for PSAC efforts in 2019. More about PSAC firstnet.gov/consultation/p...



4 6



Edward Parkinson @EdPFirstNet · Dec 6



Wonderful to host the @ukhomeoffice ESN team here at the @FirstNetGov offices today. Through our partnership and working together public safety will benefit both here in 🇺🇸 and in 🇬🇧. #partners #publicsafety #service #uk #usa – at FirstNet Reston Office



↻ 9

❤ 29

[FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov)

