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:
First Responder Network Authority Board approves investment plan for FirstNet's future

Last week the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Board marked an important accomplishment by approving efforts to pursue investments to enhance the FirstNet network. On September 19 in Washington, D.C., the Board unanimously supported efforts to authorize the FirstNet Authority to expand FirstNet's fleet of deployable assets and upgrade the FirstNet Core to make it 5G ready.

The Board's approval is a significant step for the FirstNet Authority in creating a dedicated and differentiated broadband communications experience for public safety. Both investments are supported by the FirstNet Authority Roadmap that defines public safety's vision and priorities for the nationwide network.
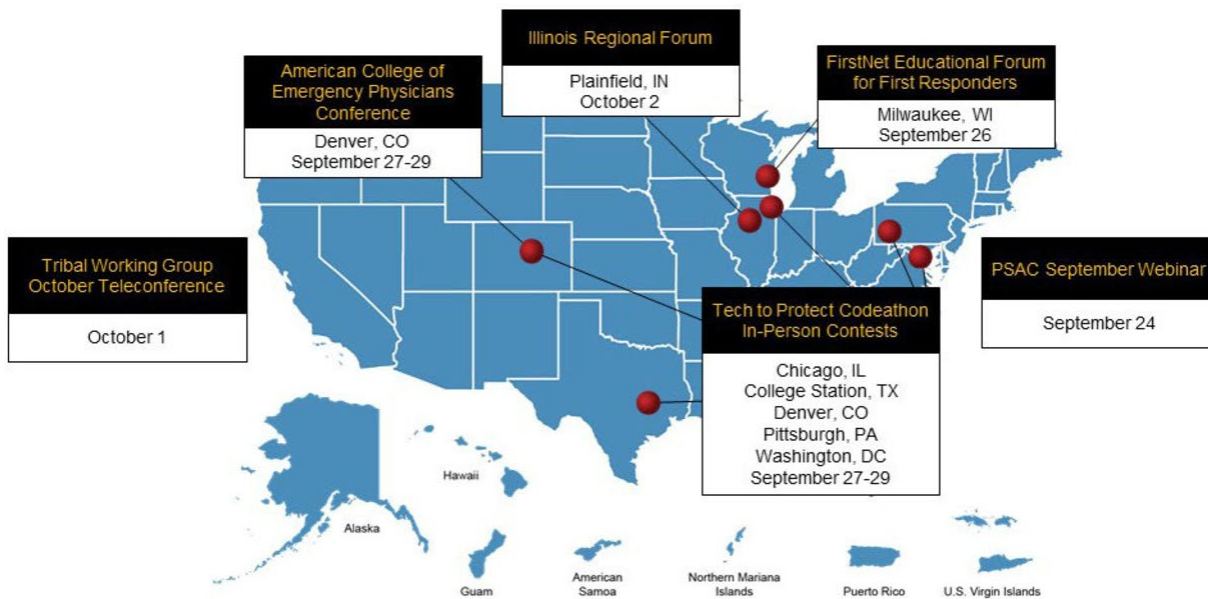
Expanding FirstNet's deployable asset program is aligned with the Roadmap's Coverage and Capacity domain by expanding coverage enhancements where and when public safety need it. Likewise, the FirstNet dedicated Core is a critical domain of the Roadmap. Enabling initial generational upgrades to the dedicated FirstNet Core today sets the network on a path to 5G when it's ready for public safety's use.

The FirstNet Authority will use these two investment opportunities to enhance and shape the network's future based on public safety's specific input to expand on-demand coverage and to ensure FirstNet remains current with technology available on commercial networks.

For more information about the Board's most recent or upcoming activities impacting FirstNet, visit the website for additional details and materials.

Select Upcoming Public Safety Advocacy Engagements

Submit your nomination for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award

The Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award is the FirstNet Authority's sole award. Created in honor of Chief Harlin R. McEwen for his extraordinary expertise, experience, and leadership as the founding Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair, it honors an individual who has displayed remarkable leadership or made significant contributions in the field of public safety broadband communications. Any sworn or civilian member of public safety (fire service, law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, and 911/emergency communications) is eligible for this award.

To learn more about the award and how to nominate someone, [visit our website](). **The nomination process for 2019 will remain open through September 30, 2019.**

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Get the nomination form

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 FirstNet in Action: Public safety's use and adoption of the network

Nationwide coding challenge appeals to innovators and public safety

Tech to Protect, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Public Safety Communications Research Division's (PSCR) national innovative challenge, introduces coding contests designed to foster communications technology solutions that will aid emergency responders in serving and protecting communities nationwide. Participants will compete for cash prizes from a pool of $2.2 million. The FirstNet Authority is pleased to have technical subject matter experts from our organization leading three contests.

[Get a behind-the-scenes look at three of these contests]()

Integrating FirstNet into 911 Operations

The FirstNet Authority met with professionals working in emergency communication centers at Arizona's Public Safety Broadband Forum for PSAPs to discuss how ECCs are using FirstNet and how to integrate FirstNet into 911 operations.

[Learn more about how ECCs are integrating FirstNet into their operations](#)

Harnessing FirstNet to Enhance EMS response and improve patient care

Technology is revolutionizing how medical professionals care for patients, work, and communicate. Nowhere is that more true than in the emergency medical services field. As new technologies enter the marketplace and promise improved patient outcomes and access to care, EMS professionals require a reliable and effective communications network every day and for every emergency. The answer lies in FirstNet.

[Read how FirstNet will fundamentally change the landscape of the emergency medical field](#)

Podcast: How one Missouri fire agency is leveraging FirstNet

In this episode, host Dave Buchanan sits down with Chris Denney, the Division Chief of the Southern Platte Fire District in Missouri, to discuss how firefighters at his agency are using FirstNet to enhance daily operations.

[Hear how firefighters in Missouri are using FirstNet](#) (and don't forget to [subscribe](#)!)

🎙️ **FirstNet in the news**

Regional Coverage

[Bloosurf looks to expand high-speed broadband on Maryland's Eastern Shore](#) (Technically Baltimore, September 9)

[Planning board gives conditional OK for cell tower on Morrill property](#) (The Conway Daily Sun, September 3)

[AT&T boosts network speeds for Queen Creek](#) (Queen Creek Independent, AZ, September 2)

National Coverage

[FirstNet users will have access to 5G, but Band 14 will remain on 4G LTE for years, AT&T's FirstNet lead says](#) (Urgent Communications, September 11)

[FirstNet board authorizes core upgrades to prep for 5G](#) (GCN, September 18)

[Preparedness Month: Three Things to Know about FirstNet](#) (By FirstNet Authority's Lesia Dickson, Homeland Preparedness News, September 17)

[Sharing the lessons of 9/11 with the newest generation](#) (Fire Chief, September 9)

Be social with FirstNet

Integrated Public Safety Commission
@IPSC_Indiana

A lot of great information exchanged today at the Interoperability Conference - now on to the @FirstNet Hackathon and The Frontline Experience! Some great discussion with our local #firstresponders about their FirstNet experiences.

FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

Calling all innovators! Join your fellow coders to develop #TechforGood — participate in one of the nationwide @techtoprotect #codeathons (Sept. 27-29)! Details at: techtoprotectchallenge.org

#TechtoProtect

Mkokowe
@megin79

@FirstNetGov #Tribal Working Group meeting this
week and being hosted by the Afognak Native
Corporation in Anchorage, Alaska

FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

We met with #publicsafety from across New Hampshire today to discuss the #FirstNetAuthority Roadmap. Special thanks to @NHInterop for hosting. We look forward to our user forum with reps from #FEMA Region 1 states tomorrow! #WeServeYou

Michael Varney and Chris Sununu