



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE | MARCH 23, 2020



[Featured](#) | [Engagements](#) | [FirstNet in Action](#) | [FirstNet in the News](#) | [Social](#)



FEATURED ADVOCACY ACTIVITY



March 2020 Board Meeting

FirstNet Authority Board of Directors holds quarterly meeting

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Board held an open public meeting on March 19th via teleconference. FirstNet Board Chair **Edward Horowitz** acknowledged the dedication of our nation's public safety community as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds across the country. Before turning the meeting over to the Board's agenda, Edward congratulated the newly named [FirstNet Authority Executive Director Ed Parkinson](#), commending his dedication and commitment to public safety.

Ed then called attention to this month marking three years since the FirstNet Authority and AT&T partnership launch, and two years since the FirstNet Core and Band 14 deployment began. In that time, FirstNet has been purpose built for public safety with expanding and

evolving services, and relied on to respond to everyday emergency communications needs, regional crises, and national emergencies.

Following Ed's remarks, the Board received updates on, discussed, and considered several important matters related to the operations and progress of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), FirstNet Authority, and FirstNet network:

PSAC Chair **Todd Early** discussed the PSAC's recent accomplishments and activities. Additionally, Todd summarized the proposed changes to the PSAC charter that sought to include the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) as a new member, increase PSAC Executive Committee membership from five to seven members, and create a working group for operational users of the FirstNet network. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Board Resolution 104 to update the PSAC Charter with these changes.

Dave Buchannan, Executive Director, Public Safety Advocacy (PSA), and **Richard Stanek**, Advocacy Committee Chair, reported that since October, the PSA team engaged with over 13,000 public safety stakeholders in 448 engagements across 52 states and territories. These engagements were instrumental in gathering public safety's feedback to make continued enhancements to the network. This feedback recently helped drive updates to FirstNet's Uplift Request Tool and the availability of the Advanced Network Status feature within the Network Status Tool to FirstNet users.

Jeff Bratcher, Chief Technology and Operations Officer, and **Neil Cox**, Network and Technology Committee Chair, discussed FirstNet's deployment and adoption progress. To date, FirstNet has over 1/2 million connections across 11,000 public safety agencies nationwide. With each month, FirstNet's impact is growing from the current 100+ mobile applications, 100+ FirstNet-Ready devices, and 76 network asset deployables offered as solutions to FirstNet users.

Kim Farington, Chief Financial Officer, and **Robert (Tip) Osterthaler**, Finance Committee Chair, reported that for the seventh consecutive year, the FirstNet Authority received a clean audit on its financial statements, which showed no signs of material weakness or deficiencies.

In closing, Ed Parkinson thanked our nation's first responders for once again being on the frontline responding to the COVID-19 crisis. On behalf of the FirstNet Authority, we encourage our friends, family, and colleagues in the public safety community to stay safe and well in the coming weeks.

To learn more about FirstNet resources, visit the FirstNet Authority's [website](#).

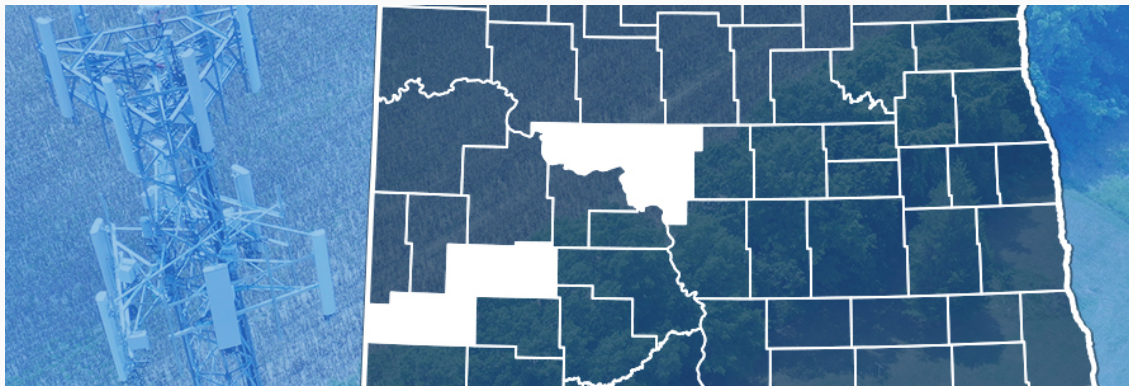
FIRSTNET IN ACTION



Edward Parkinson Named Executive Director of First Responder Network Authority

The FirstNet Authority Board announced today that Edward Parkinson has been named Executive Director of the organization.

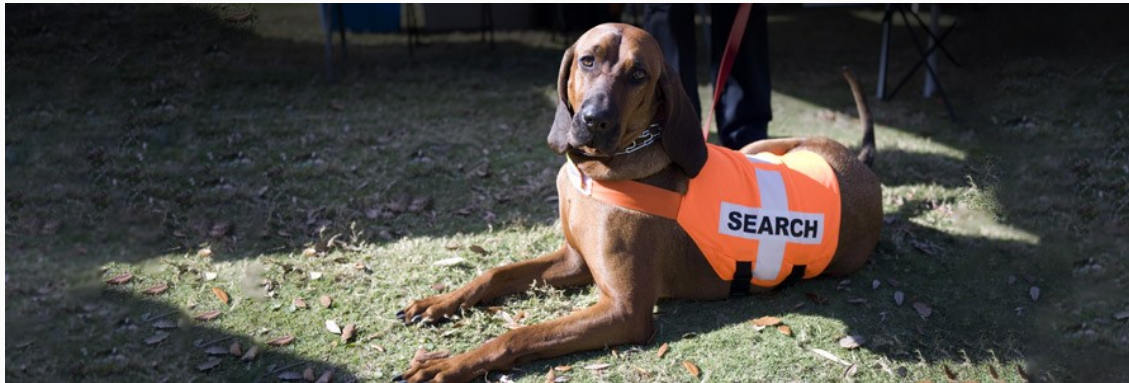
[Learn more about Edward Parkinson here.](#)



New FirstNet Cell Sites Launch in North Dakota to Support Public Safety

New infrastructure will help advance public safety and improve connectivity for area residents and visitors.

[Learn how North Dakota first responders are getting a major boost in their wireless communications.](#)



K9s tackle jobs that are impossible for humans and technology; broadband helps keep them safe and connected

First responders rely on dogs for many tasks that no human or technology can do. As K9 units continue to proliferate across public safety, industry is designing new technologies to keep them safe and increase their effectiveness. Many of these technologies require a reliable, secure broadband connection to function properly.

[Learn more about public safety's best friend.](#)



FirstNet Authority Releases New Factsheet on FirstNet Deployable Program

The FirstNet Authority has released an informational factsheet that details how the FirstNet Deployable program supports the public safety community including what is provided, how it works, and how to request a deployable asset.

Read the [FirstNet Deployable Factsheet](#).

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

[FirstNet cell site Launches in Lake Providence](#)

News Star, LA, March 6

[New AT&T cell tower in Rancho Tehama supports public safety](#)

Corning Observer, CA, March 5

National Coverage

Ed Parkinson named as FirstNet Authority CEO

Urgent Communications, March 12

NIST pushes augmented reality for first responders

GCN, March 12

FirstNet buildout 80% complete, serves 1.2 million subscribers, AT&T exec says

Urgent Communications, March 12

AT&T launches FirstNet cell site in Lake Providence, Louisiana

Telecompaper, March 9

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

Thank you to our nation's [#firstresponders](#) who are working around the clock supporting both everyday emergencies and COVID-19 response. [#FirstNet](#) is proud to support [#publicsafety](#) as they protect our communities. Learn how [#WeServeYou](#): about.att.com/newsroom/2020/...



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



FirstNet, Built with AT&T
@FirstNet

Information is critical for officers responding to calls. Hear how FirstNet is helping Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety.





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.

