

## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | FEBRUARY 22, 2021



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## FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

### FirstNet Enhances User Experience for Hawaii Public Safety

Part of the FirstNet Authority's mission is to ensure that the FirstNet network meets public safety's needs. At last week's **Hawaii** FirstNet Update Webinar, our Market Engagement Team discussed opportunities for more in-depth interaction with the FirstNet Authority and specific FirstNet capabilities available to support public safety operations.

#### Support for technical and operational response

*Operational Support.* The FirstNet Authority staff discussed how they are available to work with public safety agencies related to how the FirstNet network can support agency planning, logistics, operations, and technology use. By taking part in event planning and preparation workshops, incorporating scenario- or discussion-based injects into training programs or exercises, or conducting post-event after action reviews, public safety agencies can learn new insights and how to maximize FirstNet performance during emergency response or for planned events and activities.

*Technical Response Support:* FirstNet puts mission-ready capabilities and solutions in the hands of first responders. The network provides responders with the technology and capabilities they need to ensure that better outcomes happen – including situational awareness tools that provide real-time access to information, interoperability across jurisdictions and public safety disciplines that supports agency coordination, and priority and preemption services that overcome network congestion.

#### FirstNet services to support Hawaii first responders

*New FirstNet Mission-Ready Solutions.* FirstNet-AT&T discussed the recently announced High-Power User Equipment solution, called **FirstNet MegaRange**. The solution boosts connectivity for FirstNet users in remote areas by leveraging the unique characteristics of the network's Band 14 spectrum. FirstNet MegaRange will enhance the network's coverage and capacity for Hawaii first responders while operating in areas prone to coverage or capacity issues, such as along the coast or within rugged or remote terrain.

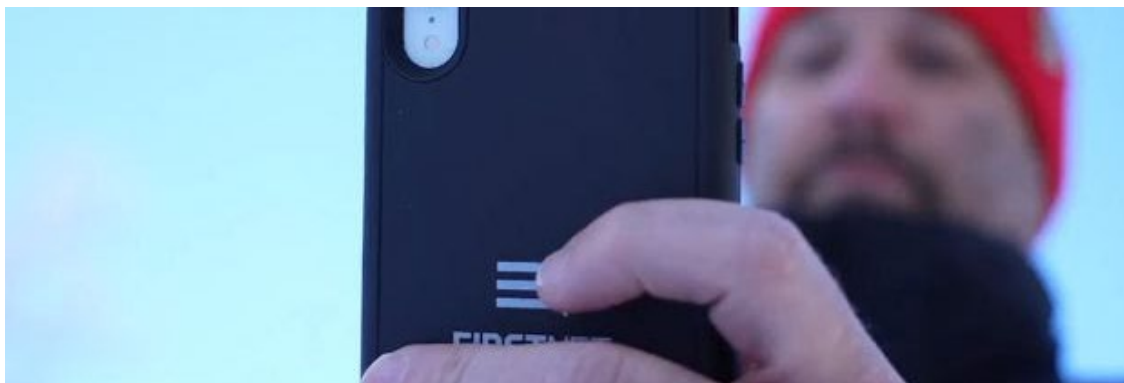
*Network enhancements in Hawaii.* FirstNet-AT&T also discussed their commitment to continue FirstNet's network expansion across Hawaii, including 20 new sites to improve access to FirstNet users' emergency communications capabilities.

The webinar was an opportunity for the FirstNet Authority to continue its partnership with public safety agencies in Hawaii. FirstNet Authority public safety advisor for Hawaii **Kenison Tejada** says *mahalo* to everyone who joined.

To stay updated on FirstNet developments, visit the [First Responder Network Authority](#) website, or to learn how to organize an engagement in your state, contact your local FirstNet Authority [Public Safety Advisor](#).

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## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



### **Expanding to Serve: FirstNet Surpasses 2.71 Million Square Miles Supporting More Than 2 Million Connections**

FirstNet, now covers more than 2.71 million square miles. Today, more than 15,000 agencies and organizations – accounting for more than 2 million connections nationwide – have subscribed to FirstNet. Other highlights include:

- Recent agencies to sign on to FirstNet include the **Los Angeles Police Department** and the **City of Cambridge**, part of the Boston metropolitan area.
- AT&T says they have surpassed **90% of their Band 14** coverage target.
- More than **750 requests for deployables** were made from public safety in 2020.
- The FirstNet device and app ecosystem now has more than **210 FirstNet Ready™ devices** and **over 160 highly secure apps**.

Learn more about [FirstNet momentum](#) in the full press release.

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### **FirstNet on the Fire Line**

The Cameron Peak Fire burned nearly 209,000 acres (326 square miles) in Colorado in late 2020, making it the largest wildfire in state history. As firefighters fought the blaze, FirstNet deployables and devices allowed them to access apps and resources that made their jobs easier and kept them connected to Incident Command and their families back home.

[Tune in to the latest episode](#) of the Public Safety First podcast to hear how ‘internet in the woods’ made a

difference for responders.

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### **Collaboration is Key for Interoperability in National Capital Region**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments or COG was formed to provide a forum for jurisdictions in the National Capital Region to discuss regional challenges and develop cooperative solutions. The Interoperable Communications Regional Programmatic Working Group within COG aims to enhance communications for public safety and is addressing policy and governance challenges for issues and systems that have an impact on all jurisdictions, including the integration of FirstNet services.

Read [this blog on COG](#) to learn more about interoperability in the Washington, D.C. area.

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### **FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communications Capabilities**

First responders across the country are getting a major boost in their wireless communications with the addition of new, purpose-built FirstNet cell sites. This new infrastructure is a part of the FirstNet network expansion that is bringing increased coverage, capacity, and capabilities for public safety.

Read more about the benefits for first responders in [Arizona](#), [Maryland](#), [New Mexico](#), and [Missouri](#).

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## **FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS**

*Regional Coverage*

**Behind the Scenes: The broadband network supporting COVID-19 mobile testing sites in Ohio**

The Ohio 100, February 8

## AT&T adds LTE tower to improve coverage in Iredell County

Statesville Record & Landmark, February 10

## With new cell site on Ocean Pearl Road, FirstNet network expands in Currituck County

The Coastland Times, February 15

### National Coverage

## Parkinson: FirstNet 'Will Become Stronger' After Nashville Bombing

TR Daily, February 10

## 'The Holy Grail': Public safety applauds FirstNet vertical-location launch

Urgent Communications, February 5

## AT&T, FirstNet prepped for NFL championship

Fierce Wireless, February 5

# BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



Through our Tribal Working Group and our #Tribal Liaisons, the #FirstNetAuthority is working to understand the unique needs of tribal #firstresponders. Visit [FirstNet.gov/tribal](http://FirstNet.gov/tribal) to learn about our Tribal Consultation policy and how mobile broadband can benefit #IndianCountry.



DYK? Public safety users can take advantage of #FirstNet services on their personal devices through the Subscriber-Paid Services program. Learn more about this program in our webinar on March 4 at 2:30 p.m. ET. Register here: [firstnet.gov/newsroom/event...](http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/event...)





FirstNet Authority  
@FirstNetGov

Replying to @FirstNetGov

"AT&T announced the launch of new additions to the #FirstNet service (FirstNet MegaRange, vertical axis location, compact rapid deployables, LMR-LTE for PTT). These separate @FirstNet from any other type of public safety service that exists anywhere in the world." - @EdPFirstNet



FirstNet Authority  
@FirstNetGov

WATCH: @BerthoudFire firefighter Don Patterson details how mobile broadband provides crucial situational awareness to responders battling #wildfires. Learn how firefighters are using broadband to access real-time info on the fire line and free up LMR traffic for other incidents.



**Situational Awareness on the Fire Line**

Wildland firefighters are using mobile broadband to access apps that provide up-to-date info to make operational decisions in the field. Broadband also frees up traffic from LMR systems.

The FirstNet Authority 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.

