

THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | APRIL 5, 2021



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

FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

FirstNet Subscribers Request Deployable Assets for Added Support During Disasters, Big Events

In 2020, FirstNet subscribers made more than 750 requests for the network's fleet of dedicated deployable assets to **enhance coverage** during incidents or large scale events. Given the interest in these critical assets, the FirstNet Authority held the "FirstNet Deployables: What's New and What to Expect When Requesting an Asset" webinar to provide users information about requesting deployables.

Executive Assistant Chief for the City of Houston Police Department and FirstNet Authority Board Member **Matt Slinkard** delivered welcoming remarks to kick off the engagement. Chief Slinkard detailed the **expansion of the deployable fleet program** to provide access to a wider variety of coverage solutions.

Deployables are free to FirstNet subscribers and available 24/7/365. Slinkard described how deployable use has expanded coverage footprints during natural disasters, like the Texas ice storms in February 2021, and large planned events, such as the Super Bowl or World Series games. "The fact remains that FirstNet is the only cellular network specifically for public safety, by public safety, and it truly is becoming a national resource for us and how we serve our communities," remarked Chief Slinkard.

How FirstNet Deployable assets benefit local communities

Hamilton County Communications Center (HCCC), Ohio. When the Killen Generating Station **in Adams County, Ohio** collapsed in December 2020, HCCC Director Andy Knapp knew that communication would be a problem for first responders operating on the edge of the 20,000-acre Appalachia nature preserve. In addition to setting up two Cradlepoint© IBR1700 modems to get FirstNet service, Knapp arranged for a FirstNet deployable asset to connect the onsite team. "We had the FirstNet deployable out there, plus Cradlepoint – we lit the area up with cellular," recalled Knapp.

Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC), Indiana. The first time that Tyler Clements, executive director for the Indiana IPSC, requested a FirstNet deployable was after a 2019 tornado stuck a local cell tower **in Madison County, Indiana**. The deployable asset restored LTE communications for local first responders, aiding the response and recovery effort. Since then, IPSC has relied on deployable assets during multiple high-profile events. During a US Vice Presidential visit in 2020, deployables helped fully optimize Band 14 capabilities. The assets were used to remotely monitor multiple locations in a rural area at the 2020 Scheid Diesel Extravaganza. At the 2021

Gubernatorial Inauguration in Indianapolis, deployables were in place to support communications over a 16-day mobilization.

Clements said, “I cannot stress enough the importance of advanced planning and coordinating early to include FirstNet deployable assets for large events and emergency response.”

To learn more about how FirstNet is transforming public safety communications contact your local FirstNet Authority [Public Safety Advisor](#). For information about deployables, read our [recently updated factsheet](#).



Recruitment of FirstNet Board Members

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, issued a Notice of Recruitment to initiate the annual process to seek interest from individuals who would like to serve on the FirstNet Authority Board. **To be considered for the calendar year 2021 appointments, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before the extended deadline of April 15, 2021.**

SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Upcoming Webinars

FirstNet Authority New Jersey Webinar

Date

April 6

FirstNet Brings Internet to the Woods: Command and Control During Wildfires Webinar

April 8

2021 Preparedness Summit

April 13-15

Public Safety Broadband Technology Association Colorado Regional Forum

April 15

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



FirstNet Partnership Kicks Off Fifth Year, Brings Initial 5G Investment to FirstNet

Over the last four years, the partnership between the FirstNet Authority and AT&T has brought together the very best in the public and private sectors with a singular focus on supporting public safety's mission. Together, we are delivering on our commitment to the public safety community: to provide a single nationwide, interoperable network for the millions of police, fire, EMS, and public safety workers across the country. Last year, the FirstNet Authority Board directed our first investments for the network, which included initial upgrades to the FirstNet Core to enable access to 5G services for FirstNet subscribers. Last week, we were pleased to join AT&T in announcing that this initial investment is becoming a reality. FirstNet subscribers will have access to AT&T's 5G mmWave spectrum in parts of 38 cities and more than 20 venues across the country beginning this month.

Learn more about how network investments helped bring 5G to public safety in [this blog from FirstNet Authority CEO Ed Parkinson](#).



FirstNet Inject Catalog advances planning and preparation for public safety

The FirstNet Inject Catalog is a comprehensive searchable tool designed to help emergency planners integrate broadband capabilities into discussion-based (tabletop) and operational (functional and full-scale) exercises. Organizers of the 2019 Central State Communications Exercise, held in Quapaw, Oklahoma, used the Inject Catalog to demonstrate how broadband technologies could enhance operational communications throughout the central states' region.

In [this blog on the Inject Catalog](#), see how public safety agencies are integrating broadband into training and exercises.



FirstNet Helps Emergency Communications Center Adapt during Pandemic

In response to the spread of COVID-19, public safety agencies looked for ways to keep personnel safe while continuing to serve their communities. The Arlington County Emergency Communications Center in Virginia launched remote call-taking, dispatching, and supervision capabilities. Telecommunicators are able to work from home or other locations with a setup that includes a FirstNet hotspot.

[Listen to the latest episode](#) of the Public Safety First podcast to hear how Arlington County tested and launched this innovative approach to emergency telecommunications.



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 [New Hampshire](#), [Montana](#), and [Maine](#).

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

[New cell tower boosts Golden Valley's 911 response](#)

Sun Post, March 24

[Fort Branch to explore offerings of FirstNet](#)

Princeton Daily Clarion, March 18

[AT&T adds tower in Coon Rapids](#)

HometownSource.com, March 26

National Coverage

FirstNet Authority Receives Clean Financial Audit for 2021

MissionCritical Communications, March 23

NextNav: Vertical 911 Location Solutions Commercially Available Soon

TR Daily, March 22

APCO Announces 2021 Leadership in Policy Award Winners

MissionCritical Communications, March 26

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

Public safety advocated for a network of their own. Thanks to their dedication, @FirstNet now supports thousands of first responders nationwide. As we mark 4 years of partnership with AT&T, take a look back at our history and the progress we've made:
FirstNet.gov/history.



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

The #R2Network is live! Check out this new platform that will connect entrepreneurs and public safety to advance #TechforGood.

Learn more about the @R2Network_ at firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...

R2 Network @R2Network_ · 23h

Today we launch the #R2Network - A free-to-use #publicsafety platform to support innovators and agencies in empowering first responders with the tools they need to stay safe, & protect our communities. Join Today!



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

Location-based services (LBS) are critical for first responders' situational awareness and can aid in tracking people and assets. Watch our latest to learn about LBS core concepts and how the FirstNet Authority is driving advances in LBS technologies.
youtu.be/pAFcbZNffI8



Defining Location-Based Services

Location-based services are critical for first responders' situational awareness and can aid in tracking people, assets, and geo-fencing.

FirstNet Authority Retweeted



SDPSBN
@SDPSBN

We appreciate FirstNet deploying two SatColts in support of the Black Hills Fire near Rapid City, SD. Great performance to fill in the gaps in coverage in areas of rugged, rugged heavy terrain and elevation changes.
[@FirstNet](#) [@FirstNetGov](#) [@RealDeputyTony](#)
[@penncofire](#) [@penncoem2](#)



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.

