
THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | May 17, 2021



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FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

PSAC Spring Business Meeting highlights FirstNet network innovation and expansion

On May 11, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) convened a meeting of Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) members and FirstNet Authority leadership and Board members to discuss FirstNet Authority programmatic and operational updates, progress on network expansion, and initiatives to enhance FirstNet innovation.

PSAC Chair **Todd Early's** welcoming remarks underscored the significance of the **PSAC mission** to provide continued consultation and guidance to the FirstNet Authority. Early took the opportunity to announce the recent appointment of Seattle Fire Deputy Chief **Chris Lombard** to the PSAC Executive Committee and to **welcome new PSAC members**.

PSAC Business Highlights

Nashville Bombing Update. FirstNet Authority Board Chair **Tip Osterthaler** and FirstNet Authority CEO **Ed Parkinson** recognized the public safety officials who participated in the FirstNet Authority's review of the Nashville bombings on Christmas Day 2020. As part of the First Net Authority's After-Action review of the incident, the FirstNet Authority coordinated with federal, state, and local public safety in the Nashville area and Southeast region. PSAC members appreciated the discussion on the conclusion of that important work.

Investments. Over the last few months, the FirstNet Authority engaged with the PSAC and the public safety community to update and focus on investment priorities for FirstNet to continue to enhance the network's public safety features and capabilities.

Public Safety Engagement. The FirstNet Authority continues to remotely engage in targeted discussions with public safety stakeholders nationwide. Through the use of webinars and other online platforms, the FirstNet Authority conducted 449 public safety engagements in that last year, including 76 national events on topics ranging from network deployable assets to new capabilities to subscriber paid services. Reaching over 7,000 stakeholders, these engagements have generated over 600 feedback items to reflect stakeholders' positive feedback and confidence in the FirstNet network, operational needs, and product suggestions.

AT&T Leadership Update. AT&T President of Public Sector and FirstNet **Jason Porter** provided an update on

FirstNet adoption trends and AT&T's continued plans for network deployment and expanded coverage in 2021 and beyond. With more than 2.2 million connections across **16,000 agencies**, FirstNet will remain focused on delivering innovative and interoperable solutions to public safety, such as **Z-Axis**, **FirstNet MegaRange™**, and **FirstNet Push-to-Talk**.

PSAC Strike Teams and User Working Group Updates

- The **Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) Strike Team** continues to discuss public safety applications to benefit FirstNet's ICAM solutions. In the coming months, the strike team will share input with the PSAC based on their expertise to help with security and adoption measures.
- The **Telehealth Strike Team** remains focused on supporting efforts to effectively use telehealth capabilities in a public safety environment. The COVID-19 pandemic motivated public safety agencies and other stakeholders to support the deployment and use of telehealth practices in every day and emergency response.

PSAC User Working Group Updates

- The PSAC **location-based services focus group** works in support of the FirstNet Roadmap's Situational Awareness technology domain. Through a user-based study, the location-based services focus group is working with the PSAC and public safety community to segment and target different perspectives on location-based technologies. Once complete, the focus group will share public safety's input with the PSAC about monitoring and tracking personnel location while using location services solutions and applications.
- The mission of the PSAC **mobile application focus group** is aligned with the FirstNet Roadmap User Experience technology domain. To ensure a positive FirstNet user experience, the focus group promotes the development and use of operationally sound mission-enabling applications. These apps will offer intuitive user interfaces and support seamless public safety collaboration.

Thank you to all participants and attendees who tuned in to hear about the PSAC's successful work in 2021 and its ongoing plans to support FirstNet's growth and expansion nationwide. We look forward to continuing to engage the PSAC membership on important network topics.

SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

<i>Upcoming Webinars</i>	<i>Date</i>
Participating in IACP 2021 Technology Conference	May 17-19
FirstNet Central 101 Webinar	May 18
New Jersey Fire Webinar	May 19
PSAC Executive Committee May Teleconference	May 24
Massachusetts FirstNet Webinar-Tools for Situational Awareness	May 26
Rhode Island State Webinar	May 26
FirstNet Mutual Aid Webinar	May 27
How FirstNet Can Help Hurricane and Tornado Response	June 9

For interest in attendance for any of our webinars, please email Outreach@firstnet.gov.



Meet the Expert: Fire Services Advisor Gary McCarraher Reflects on the Evolution of Technology and the Future of Firefighting

FirstNet Authority Senior Fire Services Advisor Gary McCarraher spent more than 45 years in fire and EMS, serving as fire chief of three departments. At the FirstNet Authority, he works with fire services personnel to understand the needs of firefighters and how FirstNet can provide greater situational awareness when responding to wildfires and urban fires.

Get to know Gary McCarraher in our latest Meet the Expert [blog](#) and [video](#).



Advanced communication tech at Cameron Peak

The Cameron Peak Fire was the largest wildland fire in Colorado’s history. Don Patterson, a firefighter and communications expert, deployed to the fire knowing that broadband communications would play a huge role, particularly with the threat of COVID-19. Deployables and other advanced technologies helped everyone communicate — from incident command at the base camp to frontline firefighters.

Find out how FirstNet helped bring “internet to the woods” in [this blog detailing the Cameron Peak Fire](#).



3GPP Quarterly Meetings Focus on 5G NR Sidelink Interfaces, Stage 2 Architecture Work

The first quarterly Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Plenary e-meetings of 2021 recently concluded. At the March meetings, the 3GPP momentum continued with more Release 17 progress and a focus on the upcoming June deadline for stage 2 (architecture) work. There were major discussions on the use of the 5G New Radio (NR) sidelink interface to support both user equipment (UE) to network (U2N) relay and UE to UE (U2U) relay.

Learn more in our latest [Tech Talk blog](#).



FirstNet Powers Mission Critical Capabilities for Delaware Police Officers

The Milford Police Department in Delaware uses hundreds of gigabytes of data each month, uploading dash and body-worn camera footage and using ticket and reporting software provided by the state. FirstNet's reliable, dedicated connection and priority and preemption features ensure officers can communicate, share data, and stay connected to data capabilities in the field.

[Tune in to the latest episode](#) of the Public Safety First podcast to hear how these capabilities are making a difference for officers in the field.



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 York](#), [Pennsylvania](#), and [Delaware](#).

National Coverage

FirstNet Amends PSAC Charter to Exclude Participants from States Diverting 9-1-1 Fees

MissionCritical Communications, May 5

5G Solutions for Business Excellence with AT&T's Jason Inskeep

RCR Wireless News, May 4

Ed Parkinson on The Communicators

C-SPAN, May 6

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FirstNet Authority Retweeted



Sign up for the new emergency management newsletter from @FirstNetGov to learn 3 ways the FirstNet Authority helps agencies with planning & preparedness:

- ✓ Pre-planning support
- ✓ Exercise inject catalog
- ✓ Post-incident reviews

Subscribe: [FirstNet.gov/newsletters](https://firstnet.gov/newsletters)

Preparedness -> Response -> Recovery -> Mitigation:
How FirstNet supports the emergency management cycle
Read it first at [FirstNet.gov/newsletters](https://firstnet.gov/newsletters)



Throughout the pandemic, @NWTEMC has played a critical role in supporting #IndianCountry. Discover how @FirstNet is supporting their efforts to deliver food and personal protective equipment to tribal nations (via @TribalNetOnline, p. 22): tribalhub.com/magazine/Sprin...

FirstNet supports tribal nations during pandemic



Replying to @FirstNetGov

"As we look at how to advance, invest, and improve the network, public safety's voices are the first thing we're looking at. It's the really important ingredient to help us find the best way to make those improvements." - @dbuchananFN on public safety engagement

FY2021 Quarter 2 Engagement Accomplishments

- 449 Public Safety Engagements including 76 National Events and 7,000+ Stakeholders Reached
- 601 Feedback Items
- Conducted 14 focus groups with stakeholders from 25 states regarding mobile capabilities and the FirstNet App Catalog
- Hosted 17 nationwide webinars on topics ranging from desktops to new capabilities (e.g., e-links) to subscriber post
- Feedback reflects stakeholder growth, affirmations towards and confidence in the FirstNet network
- Captured 36 operational needs and product suggestions from the mobile application focus groups above

Read it first at [FirstNet.gov/newsletters](https://firstnet.gov/newsletters)



Attending the #IACPTech Conference next week? Check out these presentations from #FirstNetAuthority staff! Learn how agencies are incorporating broadband technologies – like push-to-talk – to enhance operations. More info: theiacp.org/tech-conference #NPW #NPW2021 #NationalPoliceWeek

May 17 1:45-2:30 p.m. ET
The Future of Advanced Crimefighting Technologies

May 18 12:15-1 p.m. ET
New and Enhanced Mobile Device Access to Federal Data Sets

1:45-2:30 p.m. ET
A Tale of Two Cities: Police Technology Approaches in Toronto and Chicago

4-4:45 p.m. ET
An Interactive Guide to the Future of Public Safety Mobility

May 19 1:45-2:30 p.m. ET
The Future of Push-to-Talk

The FirstNet Authority at IACP Tech Conference 2021 #IACP2021

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.

