



THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | NOVEMBER 1, 2021



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FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

College and University Campuses Explore FirstNet Benefits and Capabilities

Local public safety agencies supporting colleges and universities need to manage routine and emergency operations, train recruits, and protect large events like football games and concerts. They also have a unique commitment to supporting academic research and developing public safety technologies.

During our webinar, “FirstNet Goes to University: How Academia is using the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network,” the FirstNet Authority connected with some of these agencies to learn and share how FirstNet aids their efforts.

Operationalizing FirstNet for campus public safety agencies

Executive Director of the Office of Emergency Management at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) **Jonathan Bratt** subscribed to FirstNet to support the university’s diverse emergency communication needs. UMB relies on the FirstNet network to support campus communications throughout the University System of Maryland’s Health Science Campus and to perform semi-government functions of the institution. With FirstNet, UMB stays connected to the state’s agencies and their functionalities located on the university’s grounds, including Maryland’s medical-evacuation system, shock-trauma center, and COVID-19 testing labs, vaccination centers, and storage and distribution facilities.

When incidents happen on school campuses, local networks become overloaded with excess user traffic making it difficult for university and school officials to communicate with first responders and the community. Thanks to FirstNet’s **extended primary user program** that offers its benefits to other essential services, such as government,

education, transportation, and utilities, UMB's leadership, administrators, and security staff can also use the network to communicate during campus incidents.

FirstNet training programs for police recruits

Chief Scott Henry, director of police services and safety at the Mansfield University Public Safety Training Institute (MUPSTI), evaluates and designs training curricula around emerging technologies for criminal justice practitioners, first responders, and public safety professionals. Serving as regional training center in northern Pennsylvania, MUSPTI worked with FirstNet and other public and private stakeholders to help create and develop training programs focused on data, innovation, and risk prevention techniques.

Recently, MUPSTI included FirstNet in its micro-credentialing program as an emergency communications solution option. The program introduced FirstNet to recruits and cadets to familiarize them with how the network integrates push-to-talk services and other mission critical capabilities.

FirstNet use in research and development

Dr. Walter Magnussen, director of telecommunications at Texas A&M University, runs the Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center that conducts emergency communications research focusing on interoperability. ITEC hosts an annual **training exercise called the Winter Institute** that gathers first responders and technology leaders to demonstrate public safety technologies in realistic scenarios. In past years, FirstNet was used at these exercises to test public safety devices and services in disaster conditions, including in a **simulated cyberattack, an earthquake**, and volcano eruption.

In one such deployment, FirstNet powered a small drone to live-stream a volcano's lava flow to the emergency operations center more than 30 miles away. FirstNet provided the connection and bandwidth needed to share quality footage in real time. Disaster scenarios such as these are designed and executed in real-life settings allowing responders to evaluate technologies and make future improvements more accurately.

Thank you to our FirstNet users for sharing their experience using the network to support public safety operations. To learn more about how FirstNet functions in your state or territory, contact your local FirstNet Authority **Public Safety Advisor**.



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

National EMS Advisory Council

November 1

PSAC Tribal Working Group Monthly Teleconference

November 2

Virginia EMS 2021 Symposium

November. 3-6

New York City Demo Day

November 8

IAFC Volunteer & Combination Officer's Section Symposium in the Sun

November 11-14

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



FirstNet Authority Welcomes Newly Appointed Board Members, Board Chair

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo appointed 11 leaders in public safety, technology, and finance to FirstNet Authority Board and names Stephen Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, South Carolina as Board Chair.

Read [FirstNet Authority CEO Ed Parkinson's statement](#) on the newly appointed members.



FirstNet Surpasses 2.8 Million Connections and Establishes Market Leadership with Law Enforcement

More than **18,500 public safety agencies and organizations**, accounting for more than 2.8 million connections nationwide, are on FirstNet. The San Francisco Sheriff's Department, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and Newark Police Department (New Jersey), as well as the Florida Division of Emergency Management among the latest agencies to sign on to public safety's network.

By the numbers:

- There are **18,500 public safety agencies** and organizations using more than **2.8 million connections** on FirstNet
- AT&T also said it had **surpassed 95%** of its Band 14 coverage target for the network
- In 2020, AT&T added almost 100,000 square miles to the FirstNet network for a total of **2.71 million square miles**.

- **315+ FirstNet Ready® devices**
 - **180 apps** in the FirstNet App Catalog
 - In 2021, FirstNet deployed more than **650 solutions** – from dedicated FirstNet SatCOLTs to expediting network restoration efforts.
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Celebrating our Nation's First Responders

First responders bravely and selflessly protect and serve our communities every day. On National First Responders Day, we take time to celebrate and honor their dedication. The FirstNet Authority is proud to serve the men and women of public safety with innovative solutions that can make their jobs easier, more efficient, and safer.

See how public safety agencies are using innovation and advanced technologies to carry out their daily operations in [this blog celebrating our nation's first responders](#).



The Benefits of Z-Axis Through FirstNet

The FirstNet Authority continuously works with public safety across the country to evolve the FirstNet network. One of the key capabilities that public safety requested during the planning phase of FirstNet was the ability to determine the Z-axis, or vertical axis, location of personnel. This service is now available in a growing number of areas on the FirstNet network for the nation's first responders.

Learn more in [this blog on the benefits of Z-axis technology](#) for first responders.



FirstNet Enables Enhanced Disaster Assessments, Faster Recovery in Alabama

When disaster strikes, most emergency managers and public safety officials rely on pen and paper to conduct damage assessments. The process involves slow, manual data entry and can delay disaster aid for weeks. In Cherokee County, Alabama, emergency management personnel are using FirstNet devices to collect and upload damage assessment information in real time so that communities can get the help and resources they need faster.

Listen to this episode of the [Public Safety First podcast](#) to hear how FirstNet is speeding up the disaster assessment process in Alabama.

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

National Coverage

5G and the military: A new era of connectivity

Military Embedded Systems, October 19

AT&T Invests in Louisiana Network Resiliency

Mission Critical Communications, October 20

FirstNet Authority board revamped with seven new members, Benjamin as chair

Urgent Communications, October 26

Regional Coverage

ICEMA, AT&T tout FirstNet Connection

Indiana Gazette, October 15

Indiana County First Responders to Access Private Broadband Network

MCCS 101.1, October 15

Charleston County Sheriff Kristin Graziano appointed to First Responder Network Board

WCBD-TV, October 26

Puerto Rico telecom official named to FirstNet Authority board

News is my Business, October 27



BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



Tuning in to @APCOIntl's Emerging Tech Forum? Join FirstNet Authority's @BHobsonFN on Thursday, Nov 4 at 1 p.m. ET to learn about our Roadmap and how public safety input is driving the future of #FirstNet.

Details about #APCOETF: techforum.apcointl.org/program-2021/



In #Delaware, statewide databases and reporting software help give law enforcement a common operating picture. To ensure officers can always access this mission critical software, @MilfordPoliceDE turned to @FirstNet. Learn more: soundcloud.com/user-472553784...



Enhancing Mission Critical Capabilities for the Milford Police
Milford police officers were unable to access databases and reporting software in the field. With FirstNet, officers are able to use mission critical capabilities and seamlessly upload video.



When a mudslide stranded motorists in Colorado's Glenwood Canyon, a @FirstNet deployable brought connectivity to this hard-to-reach location. Read how innovative @FirstNet infrastructure will bring permanent connectivity to the canyon (via @DenverGazette). [denvergazette.com/news/glenwood-](http://denvergazette.com/news/glenwood-...)



#FirstNetintheNews: When the Dallas Police Department in Georgia needed to transition their secondary dispatch center to a PSAP, they found several options that would cost time and money. See how @FirstNet provided a cost-effective solution (p. 59): gachiefs.com/the-georgia-po...



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.

