



THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | NOVEMBER 29, 2021



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FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

FirstNet Authority board introduces new members and committee leadership; announces Chief McEwen Award

Following U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo's appointment of 11 First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Board members, the new Board met for its first quarterly meeting of fiscal year 2022.

FirstNet Authority CEO **Ed Parkinson** commended the Board for long-term planning and investment work, creating strong public safety and government partnerships, and lending its financial and telecom expertise. “The public safety community fought long and hard for the creation of the network, and it is our job to achieve their vision,” said Parkinson. “This is an exciting time for FirstNet as we press forward into this phase of our program, which is focused on driving public safety innovations and investments in the Network.”

The new FirstNet Authority Board Chair, **Stephen Benjamin**, opened the meeting by introducing himself and the six other new members of the Board, including: **Alexandra Fernandez Navarro, Kristin Graziano, Peter Koutoujian, Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir,** and **Jocelyn Moore**.

The newly appointed members are leaders in their respective fields and together with the four reappointed members – Chief Rich Carrizzo, Paul Patrick, Mayor Billy Hewes, and Brian Crawford – will help the FirstNet Authority achieve its goal of delivering the best network experience for public safety.

“It is an honor to serve on this board and amongst such leaders as we focus on delivering the best nationwide broadband network for our nation’s first responders,” said Benjamin. “It is an exciting time to be joining the FirstNet Authority – and this board is ready and well positioned to hit the ground running.”

Chief Harlin R. McEwen Award Recipient Announcement

FirstNet Authority Vice Chair Chief **Richard Carrizzo** presented Chief **Michael Duyck** with the 2021 **Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award**.

Carrizzo highlighted Duyck’s 30 years as Chief of the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue in Oregon, and his role in helping to secure the D-block public safety spectrum that serves as the foundation of FirstNet. Duyck currently represents the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association on the FirstNet Authority’s Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and the PSAC Executive Committee, the Public Safety Alliance, and the Public Safety 9-1-1 Coalition.

“I’m honored by this award, and it’s been amazing to reflect on where we were when the legislation was passed and where we are today,” said Duyck. “Little did we know that when COVID struck, how important this would be. It’s an example of how fortunate we are to have this network.”

Board Committee Membership Updates

The Board passed resolutions to change the name of three Board Committees to reflect the committees’ evolving roles.

- The Network and Technology Committee is now the Programs and Future Planning Committee, chaired by **Jocelyn Moore**.
- The Governance and Personnel Committee is now the Governance and Risk Committee, chaired by **Sylvia Moir**.

- The Finance Committee is now the Finance and Investment Committee, chaired by **Brian Crawford**.
- The Advocacy Committee continues to have the same name and is chaired by **Richard Carrizzo**.

The Board announced new meeting dates and locations for the 2022 calendar year: February 9 in Albuquerque, New Mexico; May 4 in New Hampshire; August 17 at a location to be determined; and November 16 in Washington, D.C.

PSAC and Board Committee Updates

- PSAC: The newly appointed PSAC Chair, **Christopher Lombard**, updated the Board on the most recent PSAC work and engagements to help the FirstNet Authority carry out its mission. The Board heard about the latest developments and activities for the [Tribal Working Group](#), the [PSAC Telehealth Strike Team](#), the ICAM Strike Team, and [new membership updates](#).
- Advocacy Committee: Advocacy Committee Chair Carrizzo's update reported on how the Committee is ensuring that public safety's voice is heard and represented in the buildout and evolution of the FirstNet network. In FY 2021, the FirstNet Authority continued to build and enhance key stakeholder relationships in all 56 states and territories through over 1,700 engagements, reaching more than 40,000 stakeholders, and capturing over 2,100 unique feedback items from public safety.
- Network and Technology Committee. Chief Network and Technology Officer, **Jeff Bratcher's** read-out on the committee focused on the ongoing momentum in network deployment and the growth in network connections. In part, FirstNet's growth can be attributed to public safety tapping into the network offering differentiated devices, innovative applications and solutions, and on-demand deployable assets. These unique offerings continue to help public safety manage daily operations, planned events, and emergency situations and disasters.

For more information about other committee updates, visit the [FirstNet Board Committee webpage](#) for updates or more about the FirstNet Authority's plans and activities, visit [FirstNet.gov](#).



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

In-Person Events

City of Tulsa FirstNet Update, Dec. 1

[Texas Electric Cooperatives Managers Conference](#), Dec. 1-3

Redstone Arsenal FirstNet Ribbon Cutting, Dec. 2

[Oregon APCO/NENA Quarterly Meeting](#), Dec. 7-9

[NIST PSCR PULSE Accelerator Round 2: Signal Final Event](#), Dec. 9

Webinars and Teleconferences

Pacific Region Civil Air Patrol Virtual Conference, Dec. 11

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



FIRSTNET IN ACTION



Oregon Fire Chief Honored with Prestigious Public Safety Broadband Communications Award

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Chief (ret.) Mike Duyck has been awarded the prestigious Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award for his leadership and commitment to the advancement of broadband communications for public safety personnel across Oregon and nationwide.

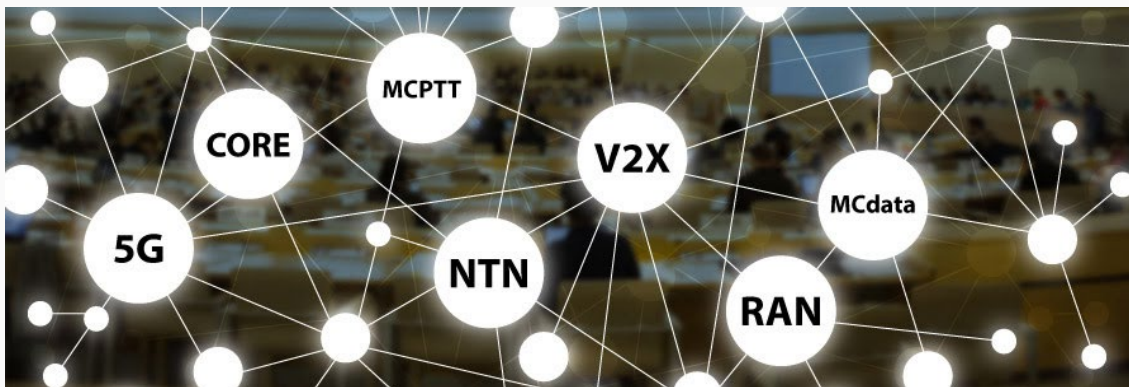
Read more about this [prestigious award](#) and Chief Duyck's contributions to public safety communications.



The FirstNet Network: Prepared, aware, and ready for hurricane season

When hurricanes strike, the main and immediate focus for first responders is rescuing and responding to those in need of aid. Last season, public safety officials relied on FirstNet to sustain and restore emergency communications for many hard-hit communities. FirstNet is critical to our nation's first responders who battle storms day in and day out – and to those who have placed their confidence in the network's communications capabilities to keep our communities safe.

Discover how [FirstNet supports first responders through hurricanes](#) in this blog from FirstNet Authority Emergency Management Expert Bruce Fitzgerald.



Scoping 3GPP Release 18 at Third-Quarter Plenary Meeting

The third quarterly Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Plenary e-meetings of 2021 concluded in September. Participants spent considerable time on preliminary scoping of the Release 18 (R18) feature content and schedule. Delegates also made good progress on the stage 3 (protocol) work for Release 17. The R18 schedule discussion ended with an initial agreement on an 18-month timeline that will result in a December 2023 completion target date.

Check out the latest [Tech Talk Blog](#) to learn more about the third-quarter 3GPP meetings.



The FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communication 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](#) and [Minnesota](#).

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Chief Mike Duyck receives Harlin R. McEwan Award

FN News 101 KXL, November 17

National Coverage

FirstNet Authority Awards Duyck Harlin R. McEwan Award

MissionCritical Communications, November 17

FirstNet Authority board renames committees, fills key roles

Urgent Communications, November 17

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov

Join us next Tues., Nov. 30, to hear how @StCloudPDMN addressed technical, policy, and training components while implementing their Body Worn Camera (BWC) program!

Bring your questions, and come learn how @FirstNet can support BWC tech: surveymonkey.com/r/39XF58P



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#FirstNetintheNews: @FirstNet is built for ALL of public safety. In this article from @ICMA's Mark L. Ryckman and FirstNet Authority's @kscapece, see how we're working with public safety to expand #RuralBroadband for responders in remote areas: icma.org/articles/pm-ma...



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov

"The growth in adoption of @FirstNet has been dramatic... Nowhere else can public safety get its own nationwide, dedicated comms platform with the standards-based solutions they need." –FirstNet Authority Chief Network & Technology Officer @jrbratch



Year	Connections (Approximate)
2014	100,000
2015	200,000
2016	400,000
2017	800,000
2018	1,500,000
2019	2,500,000
2020	3,500,000
2021	4,500,000
2022	5,500,000

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#NationalRuralHealthDay: @BangsAmbulance serves the #rural Finger Lakes region, with areas of cellular dead zones. See how high-power user equipment from @FirstNet is keeping paramedics connected and improving #patientcare: firstnet.gov/newsroom/media... #RuralBroadband #PowerofRural



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.

