

## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | APRIL 4, 2022



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## FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

### FirstNet Authority at IWCE 2022: The future of connecting public safety technologies

First responders need reliable communications and connections to save lives and protect communities. FirstNet Authority staff demonstrated how **FirstNet is transforming the future of public safety communications** at the 2022 International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE).

#### FirstNet at 10 years

In February 2012, the FirstNet Authority marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the milestone legislation that launched the organization and its mission to deliver a nationwide public safety broadband network. Here are three ways **panelists saw the network delivering on its promises today**—and how it would evolve as public safety needs into the future.

- Investing in network innovation and growth, like **advancing 5G capabilities** to revolutionize public safety technology
- Engaging with first responders, like listening to their needs for better **in-building coverage**

- Spurring a public safety ecosystem and competitive marketplace that brings developments like integrating **NG911 enhancements with FirstNet technology**

### **FirstNet Mission Critical Push-to-Talk over cellular**

Mobile technology empowers communities to prepared for and recover from disasters—here are **three agencies who took advantage of push-to-talk capabilities** over cellular networks.

#### City of Dallas Police Department (Dallas, Georgia)

FirstNet's connectivity powers in-vehicle routers and department-issued phones for **the City of Dallas Police Department** in Georgia. Officers patrolling Paulding County use push-to-talk to create interoperability between agencies, including the Dallas Police Department and public works. **Joe Duvall**, chief of police in Dallas, added that using FirstNet was a fraction of the cost of upgrading its existing radio network.

#### Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee)

When a nearby concert shut down the hospital network, **Jeff Gray**, communications manager at **Vanderbilt University Medical Center** in Nashville, Tennessee knew he needed to find a new communications carrier to support critical medical communication. The entire hospital system now leverages FirstNet's priority and preemption to ensure their ground ambulance service can always communicate. Since implanting FirstNet PTT, the medical center uses the service to enhance EMS field unit communications with the hospital.

#### Tennessee National Guard (Tennessee)

The **Tennessee National Guard** deploys FirstNet across the state for disaster relief and pandemic response. FirstNet provides Guardsman dedicated and interjurisdictional bandwidth to communicate when deployed in Tennessee or elsewhere. **Lieutenant Colonel Dallas Clements**, deputy director of military support in the Tennessee National Guard, explained that FirstNet's push-to-talk gives soldiers the ability to set up talk groups quickly and easily.

### **Innovating FirstNet with public safety input**

The FirstNet Authority builds **meaningful partnerships** with public safety stakeholders to evolve FirstNet. Here are recent areas that public safety input has led to **new solutions and capabilities** for the FirstNet network:

- When public safety responds to an emergency within a building, stairwells, basements, and other impediments can hinder their ability to communicate. FirstNet's **Cell Booster Pro**—an enterprise-grade mini cell tower—and **Z-Axis for FirstNet** improve situational awareness even in hard-to-reach areas.
- After a major hurricane or during search and rescue missions in remote areas, first responders may need quick coverage enhancement. FirstNet has expanded its fleet of **150+ dedicated deployable assets** with 50 new **Compact Rapid Deployables** (CRDs). These deployable positioned across the country are available at no cost to FirstNet subscribers.
- Public safety has told us they need more options for disaster response. For a short term solutions or while waiting for a deployable asset to arrive, they can now use **FirstNet Emergency Response Kits** that includes a cache of 20+ FirstNet Ready® devices.
- FirstNet is preparing for **Next Generation 9-1-1 Services** by taking steps like integrating AT&T ESInet™ with the commercial AT&T wireless network.
- Push-to-talk is a vital service for responders. **FirstNet Push-to-Talk** now supports mission-critical video streaming and PTT calling over Wi-Fi.

FirstNet is making a lasting impacting on emergency communications. Here are three additional ways other FirstNet-related sessions distinguished how the network is evolving to meet public safety needs.

- **High-power user equipment.** FirstNet supports **FirstNet® MegaRange™**, a high-power user equipment (HPUE) solution that enables responders to stay better connected at the edge of a cell tower's range. This capability helps responders maximize the coverage from FirstNet's Band 14 spectrum.
- **Mission-critical video.** FirstNet's priority and preemption improves the speed and reliability of mobile broadband for public safety, including for sending critical video. First responders are implementing MCPTT solutions, such as body-worn camera programs to enhance situational awareness, increase transparency, and capture data for review.
- **Smart city technologies.** Cities and towns need a robust wireless network to make smart communities possible. With extended coverage and added capacity, FirstNet can power sensors and Internet of Things technologies, helping public safety save and protect lives.

Thank you to IWCE for hosting the FirstNet Authority during a successful and valuable 2022 conference.

Find out more about the **FirstNet Authority** and learn about our mission to support the advancement of new innovative technologies for FirstNet.



## SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

### *In-Person Events*

FirstNet Roundtable with Tioga County, Pennsylvania, Public Safety, Apr 5

**New Jersey Mission Critical Seminar**, Apr 6

**Congressional Fire Service Institute 2022 Washington**, Apr 6-7

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Spring Meeting**, Apr 7-9

**Massachusetts Chief of Police Trade Show**, Apr 13

**National Hurricane Conference**, Apr 11-14

**Emergency Management Association of Georgia Conference**, Apr 13-15

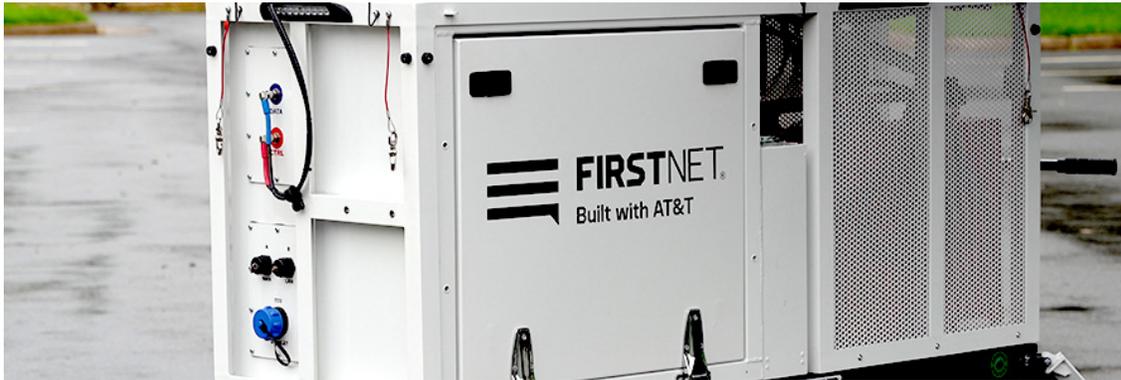
### *Webinars and Teleconferences*

FirstNet Authority PSAC Tribal Working Group Teleconference, Apr 5

For questions about events the FirstNet Authority is attending or hosting, please email [Outreach@firstnet.gov](mailto:Outreach@firstnet.gov).



## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



### FirstNet Built with AT&T Celebrates 5 Years: New Mission-Ready Solutions Launch to Enhance First Responders' Emergency Response

With new mission-ready solutions from FirstNet, first responders have access to more tools to support operations in the field – wherever emergencies occur. From enhanced in-building situational awareness, to increased disaster response support and more, public safety's network continues to advance to meet the needs of our nation's responders.

Discover the latest [innovative mission-ready solutions](#) for public safety.



### Ingenuity, diversity, and expertise: the benefits of women as leaders

Lisa Casias, Deputy CEO, introduces the six women who serve on the FirstNet Authority Board. The diversity within the Board is a strength for our agency, helping to advance our mission to improve communications for the public safety community. Today's leaders are inspiring future generations of women who will advance public safety communications.

Learn more about the [extraordinary women leaders](#) of the FirstNet Authority Board.



## From the Command Center: Carroll County Commissioner Steve Wantz leads the way in public safety and service

After 30 years as a career and volunteer firefighter, Stephen Wantz understands the importance of clear communications. Now, as an elected official in Carroll County, Maryland, he uses his past experience to advocate for the tools and technology public safety needs to communicate.

Check out this [From the Command Center blog](#) to learn more about Steve and his commitment to public safety.



## PSAC Profile: SAFECOM

SAFECOM works to improve interoperable communications for emergency response providers across local, regional, tribal, state, territorial, and international borders, as well as with federal government entities. SAFECOM develops good governance practices to help guide state, local, and tribal governance groups on technology implementation, cybersecurity, usage, and broadband coverage needs. As a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, SAFECOM provides critical input related to emergency communications planning.

In our latest [PSAC Profile blog](#), discover how we're working with SAFECOM to advance communications for public safety.



## The FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communication Capabilities

First responders nationwide benefit from FirstNet's expanded coverage, boosted capacity, and new capabilities. Rural or urban, indoor and outdoor, FirstNet solves communications challenges to help public safety serve their communities.

Read more about FirstNet's growth summary for [Illinois](#) and [Ohio](#).



### FIRSTNET MOMENTUM



Agencies  
**19,500+**



Connections  
**3+ Million**



### FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

#### *Regional Coverage*

#### **AT&T boots network speeds for Cattaraugus County**

Olean Times Herald, March 25

#### **Chemung County Receiving Mobile Broadband Boost**

WENY News, March 25

#### **Federal broadband network helps local first responders communicate better in a crisis**

WECT News, March 29

#### **First responders gather at Sunny Point terminal today to learn about FirstNet**

WWAY, March 29

### National Coverage

#### Super Bowl LVI: Gameday Communications

Police Magazine, March 22

#### Medical Transport Company Selects FirstNet Service

MissionCritical Communications, March 22

#### IWCE 2022: One decade on, administrators highlight success of FirstNet

American City and County, March 22

#### FirstNet at 10 Years: Coverage, Deployables, 5G

MissionCritical Communications, Spring 2022, Pg. 45

#### IWCE 2022: Interoperability highlighted; 'We are, in fact, stronger together'

American City and County, March 24



## BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority Retweeted



Gerald Risner  
@gerald\_risner

#FirstNet10

Past and present FirstNet leadership talk about the last 10 years and all the progress made for public safety and first responders across America. [@FirstNetGov](#) [@FirstNet](#) #IWCE2022



FirstNet Authority  
@FirstNetGov

New mission-ready solutions from [@FirstNet](#) are here!

Check out the full thread to learn how these innovations are modernizing interoperable comms for first responders during emergencies and everyday operations. [firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...](#) (1/4)





ICYMI—Our spring newsletters are now available for download! Get an in-depth look at Z-axis, push-to-talk, remote operations, [#telehealth](#), and wildfire response.

Then sign up to get the next edition sent straight to your inbox: [firstnet.gov/newsletters](https://firstnet.gov/newsletters)



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Great day at [@iafc #wui2022](#) discussing technology challenges and how [@FirstNetGov](#) [@FirstNet](#) can assist with response and help modernize efforts.



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.

