



FirstNet®

Fire Rescue Update

February 2016

Message from Jeff Johnson, FirstNet Board Vice Chair

As Vice Chair of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board, I am glad to provide this quarterly update to fire service personnel across the country. On January 13, FirstNet issued its [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for the deployment of the FirstNet network, marking a major step forward in FirstNet's efforts to modernize communications for first responders and other public safety personnel across the U.S. The release of the RFP sets in motion the process for us to partner with an industry player or players to build and deploy the network – this is something that public safety has been looking forward to for many years.

With the RFP out, we are excited that public safety is now an award and construction cycle away from having their own network. As in years past, we will continue to consult with public safety to involve them in the process for building the FirstNet network in their states and territories, more info on that below. Going forward, FirstNet will ensure that the contract awardee will deliver on its promise with this network, so that public safety gets the absolute best network solution and customer service it deserves. Questions about the RFP are due by Feb. 12, capability statements are due by March 17, and proposals are due by April 29. The contract award is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2016. For more info, visit <http://www.firstnet.gov/about/doing-business-firstnet>.

In December 2015, FirstNet announced plans for its consultation program in 2016. In general, the consultation meetings will seek to take a deeper dive into particulars about the establishment of FirstNet with public safety, and decision makers within each state and territory. We hope that you will get involved to provide your input into the State Plan process. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can help in any way to provide information and/or connect you with the right people at FirstNet. We look forward to continue working with you.

- Jeff

WHAT IS FIRSTNET?

For those who may not know much about FirstNet, we are a federal agency that was established by Congress as an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. FirstNet was created in response to a 9/11 Commission recommendation for a dedicated communications network for the nation's first responders. Our mission is to construct a nationwide wireless broadband network (not unlike a nationwide carriers' network) for fire, EMS, law enforcement and other public safety agencies. FirstNet will provide fire services with access to all of today's (and tomorrow's) technology like Mobile Data Computers (MDCs), smartphones, tablets, etc. over a network that is reliable, secure, and provides users with priority access when they need it the most during emergencies. The FirstNet interoperable network will be available to first responders in states, territories, and tribal reservations, as well as to federal public safety agencies.

WHAT IS CONSULTATION?

The Governor in each state and territory has appointed a single point of contact (SPOC) to coordinate the state's planning and outreach for FirstNet. This ongoing process is called "state consultation," and is one of FirstNet's top priorities as we begin to design how the network will be built. Through the state consultation process, FirstNet is gathering requirements from the public safety community to inform the development of a network plan in your state. FirstNet encourages firefighters to become active participants in the process and to coordinate with your state's SPOC. An updated list of all of these contacts is available on FirstNet's website, where you can also see upcoming meetings in your state or territory. <http://go.usa.gov/3GyMj>

CONSULTATION 2016

FirstNet officially launched its consultation program for the upcoming year, sending [planning packages](#) to the single points of contact (SPOCs) in all 56 states and territories. The package provides an overview of our consultation approach and includes a number of tools to assist the SPOCs with preparing for consultation, including a checklist and proposed agenda to help organize their kick-off meetings, as well as suggestions for executive-level consultation in their states and territories.

FirstNet has developed three goals to guide our consultation activities next year. They include: (1) expanding outreach and education with state/territory, tribal, local, and public safety entities, (2) obtaining state and territory input to inform State Plans and network deployment policies, processes, and procedures, and (3) preparing key decision makers for State Plan delivery and network deployment.

Overall, we have designed this consultation program to give the states and territories both the opportunity and the flexibility to provide input into the State Plan process. We are extremely pleased with how the initial consultation process worked in 2014 and 2015 and are looking forward to our ongoing consultation efforts with the states and territories in 2016 and beyond.

For more information on FirstNet's Consultation efforts, check out the following videos on the [FirstNet YouTube Channel](#), as well as our new interactive map on www.FirstNet.gov which shows each state and territory's progress in the FirstNet consultation p



PSAC TASK TEAMS

The Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) is comprised of 42 representatives from public safety and state, territory, local and tribal organizations. PSAC Task teams provide advice and recommendations to FirstNet on a variety of topics, most recently in the areas of public-safety grade, priority and

preemption and user equipment. The following is a summary of previous taskings, as well as future taskings as requested by FirstNet.

Priority and Preemption (P&P): Provided advice and recommendations on an initial framework for implementing access prioritization, user preemption, and application prioritization on the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN)

Public Safety Grade (PSG): Provided advice and recommendations on an initial methodology and framework for prioritizing and implementing public safety grade hardening recommendations for the NPSBN

User Equipment (UE): Provided advice and recommendations on functional objectives for and ergonomic considerations of Band 14 broadband user equipment that will meet the operational needs of first responders

Priority and Preemption Recommendations

- Defined basic usage patterns
- Developed access and applications prioritization framework
- Reviewed case studies of actual incidents submitted by task team members and adjusted usage patterns based on sequence of events

Public Safety Grade Recommendations

- Identified 19 critical asset layers (e.g., fire stations, law enforcement locations, hospitals, major stadiums/arenas, airports, PSAPs, etc.)
- Developed methodology and applied filters to better prioritize asset layers
- Identified geographic hazards (e.g., earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, etc.)

User Equipment (UE) Topics

- Defining standardized mobile platform naming conventions.
- Developing requirements for Mobile Security, Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) & Local Control
- Application of Virtual Assistants (VA), Internet of Things/Machine to Machine (IoT/M2M)
- Portfolio Planning Process

Requested Future Taskings

- Local Control
- Identity, Credential, & Access Management (ICAM)
- Organization of Public Safety Discipline Specific Working Groups



- Coordinating efforts with Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR) Research and Development Project Task Team

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH FIRSTNET

Mike Worrell, Senior Fire Services Advisor, joined FirstNet in November of last year from the Phoenix, Arizona Fire Department where he served for 29 years, most recently serving as the Technical Services Division Chief. Mike was also a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to FirstNet, a member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team, and a qualified Communications Unit Leader and Communications Technician instructor. Prior to joining the Phoenix Fire Department, Mike was an Electronics Technician in the U.S. Navy, Submarine Service. Please feel free to reach out to Mike Worrell at Mike.Worrell@firstnet.gov, or Jeff Johnson at Jeff.Johnson@FirstNet.gov.

Thanks for taking the time to read about FirstNet. We look forward to working with you.

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