



FirstNet®

9-1-1 Community Update

Message from Bill Hinkle, FirstNet Senior 9-1-1 Advisor

As many of you are aware, we are making great strides in getting the FirstNet network deployed and putting life-saving technology into the hands of public safety personnel across the U.S. states and territories. The goal of this quarterly update is to increase awareness about FirstNet and update you on our plans and progress.

The team at FirstNet has been continuing focused outreach and consultation with public safety stakeholders across the country. It's crucial that we receive your input and concerns as we work to deploy the nationwide public safety broadband network. FirstNet's goal is to equip first responders with the 21st century technology they need to do their essential job – save lives and property. Once built, this will be your network.



Bill Hinkle

I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you recently during state and local events, and am pleased by the general knowledge of FirstNet, and understanding of your impact on the planning of the network. For example, recently in Lake Charles, Louisiana, FirstNet participated in the 2016 Louisiana State APCO/NENA Conference. I was invited to join Allison McLeary, Program Director at Louisiana FirstNet, to discuss FirstNet and what its deployment will mean for the future of the Louisiana's 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The program helped to explain the crucial role that a dedicated FirstNet will play in supporting the processing, managing, and dissemination of mission critical interoperable communications between 9-1-1 and first responders.

Also, recently I visited Hot Springs, Arkansas for the Arkansas Chapters of APCO & NENA's 2016 Annual Conference. The event was attended by public safety communications professionals from across the state, including Arkansas Public Safety Broadband Network Outreach Coordinator Kelly Gottsponer, and Arkansas 9-1-1 Coordinator Randi Jones. The interactive session featured an overview of FirstNet's history, vision, and commitment to meeting the needs of our nation's first responders.

Please reach out to my colleagues at FirstNet or I if you have an upcoming event you would like our participation in. Thanks for taking the time to read about FirstNet. We look forward to working with you.

Thanks,
Bill

THE FIRSTNET MISSION

FirstNet was established by Congress in 2012 as an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. [It is governed by a 15-member Board](#), 12 of whom are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce for 1-3 year terms. All major public safety disciplines are represented including law enforcement, EMS, and fire representatives, a former Mayor, a former Governor, and representatives from the communications and information technology sectors.

Our mission is to construct a nationwide wireless broadband network (not unlike a nationwide carrier's network) for public safety agencies. Once built, the FirstNet network will provide 9-1-1 personnel and other public safety agencies with access to all of today's (and tomorrow's) technology, such as smartphones, tablets, etc, over a network that is reliable, secure, and available on a priority basis so that you can access the network when you need it. The FirstNet interoperable network will be available to first responders in the 56 states and territories, and tribal reservations. To learn more, please visit <http://firstnet.gov/network>

CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY

During the first quarter of 2016, FirstNet [has been meeting with states and territories and to date](#), we have completed 54 single point of contact (SPOC) Consultation kick-off meetings for 2016. We are also working with the states to establish their Consultation Task Teams (CTT) and meet with key executives in the state. FirstNet will continue to seek inputs for the State Plan process in 2016 as part of our ongoing consultation with states and territories.

FirstNet encourages 9-1-1 call-takers and dispatchers to become active participants in the process. To learn more about your state's engagement with FirstNet, please contact your SPOC. A list of these contacts is [available on FirstNet's website](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)

[The Public Safety Advisory Committee \(PSAC\)](#) is comprised of 42 representatives from public safety and state, territory, local and tribal organizations and provides advice and recommendations to FirstNet on a variety of topics. Representing 9-1-1 interests are Trey Forgey from the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and Richard Taylor from the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators.

The following is a summary of current taskings as requested by FirstNet:

- Local Control – Define and refine operational requirements of the Local Control application
- Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) – Develop a governance and operational structure that benefits public safety and facilitates mutual aid
- R&D – Establish Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR) Research and Development Project Task team

For more information, please check out the [FirstNet PSAC Factsheet](#).



Members of the Public Safety Advisory committee

RFP UPDATE

We are very pleased with the level of interest in the RFP process to date and remain confident that it will produce a competitive outcome.

- Received capability statements from multiple companies (cannot disclose name or numbers)
- Received more than 400 questions and have answered all of them.
- Held Pre-Proposal Conference – 400+ attendees – good participation and attendance.

Our decision to [extend the due date for proposals](#) to May 31 was driven by both (1) the volume and nature of the capability statements; and (2) the requests for extensions we received from interested parties. We believe this date affords prospective offerors the opportunity to fine tune their proposals. Even with the extension, we remain on track to award November 1 as per the [date in the RFP](#).

KEY UPCOMING DATES

- May 16 – Applications due for the Band 14 Spectrum Relocation Grant Program (goal is to complete the transition by August 2017)
- May 31 (new) – RFP Proposals due to FirstNet (originally May 13)
- June 29-30 – Next Quarterly Board Meeting (Chicago)
- September 30 – (Optional) updated data collection submissions due
- September 27-28 – Next Semi-Annual SPOC Meeting (Tentative)
- November 1 – Target date for RFP award

Learn about the NPSBN RFP in this [60 second video](#).

FIRSTNET AND NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1

There are many similarities between the deployment of the FirstNet network and Next Generation 911 (NG911), such as the importance of planning, governance, and outreach, as well as how both efforts aim to modernize emergency communications networks nationwide to improve the safety and security of the public.

FirstNet looks to enhance efforts to connect with the 911 community in 2016. This effort will include participation in more conferences and increased targeted messaging to address issues relevant for PSAPs and the 911 community. FirstNet's primary goal is to ensure the community is clear on FirstNet responsibilities and status and other contacts including SPOCs and national 911 organizations.

We have developed the following video to highlight the potential benefits of a future FirstNet/NG911 environment for public safety, share the planning that is occurring, and explain its importance to public safety agencies at all levels of government. The video features Steve Souder, Director of Fairfax County (VA) 911 Center, and Jay English, APCO's Director of Communications Center and 9-1-1 Services. <https://youtu.be/zhcvcFMatdg>.

You may download a factsheet on FirstNet and NG911 here: <http://www.firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/NextGen911Factsheet.pdf>



ON THE BLOG: A DAY IN THE LIFE

FirstNet recently launched a new blog series called, [A Day in the Life: Stories of Broadband Saving Lives and Property](#),” where we tell the stories of first responders from all parts of the country. During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in April, we highlighted the work of our 9-1-1 centers, specifically, public safety dispatchers and other first responders at the Niagara County Sheriffs Office (NCSO). During a recent trip to NCSO, [we learned about the many ways they use data](#), and other public safety communication needs they have.

FirstNet has learned through its consultation and outreach efforts that many 9-1-1 call-takers and dispatchers are currently using broadband in some capacity to do their jobs. Do you have a story of broadband use at your public safety agency? Please share with FirstNet. More information can be found here: <http://www.digitalgov.gov/2016/03/17/firstnet-launches-tumblr-seeking-stories-of-public-safety-broadband-use/>.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH FIRSTNET

Please feel free to reach out to Bill Hinkle at bill.hinkle@firstnet.gov if we can help in any way to provide information and/or connect you with the right people at FirstNet. Hope to see you at some upcoming events such as New Mexico APCO/NENA Training Conference, New York State 9-1-1 Coordinators Conference, APCO 2016 Public Safety Broadband Summit and the NENA 2016 conference later this year. For more info on FirstNet upcoming speaking engagements, please visit <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/events>.

Next quarter 9-1-1 Outreach & Engagement Activities include:

- 5/3-5/5 - Maine NENA Conference, Portland
- 5/13 - New Mexico APCO & NENA Conference, Albuquerque
- 5/17 - District of Columbia, Office of Unified Communications
- 5/17-5/19 - New York State 9-1-1 Directors Conference, Corning
- 5/22 - IACP Communications & Technology Committee Meeting, Dallas
- 6/7-8 - North Dakota State NENA Conference, Bismarck
- 6/11 - NASNA Meeting, Indianapolis
- 6/11-6/16 - NENA Annual Conference, Indianapolis
- 6/21 - USDOT 9-1-1 Program Office Webinar
- 6/22-6/24 - Washington State APCO Conference, Kennewick

SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/first-responder-network-authority-firstnet->



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