



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – January 26, 2015

FirstNet News

- Last week, FirstNet held the Federal Consultation Kickoff Summit at the Department of Commerce in Washington DC. 13 federal agencies, the District of Columbia State Point of Contact (SPOC) and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), and the PSAC Chair were in attendance. In February, Chris Algiere, Federal Outreach Branch Chief, will join the regional SPOC/SWIC calls to provide a briefing. For more information, check out Chris' blog: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/firstnet-holds-federal-consultation-%E2%80%9Ckick-off%E2%80%9D>.
- FirstNet also held a conference call on January 23 to refine the agenda for the in-person PSAC Tribal Working Group (TWG) meeting in Washington, D.C., scheduled for Sunday, 22 February 2015. Eight of ten TWG members participated, along with FirstNet Board member McGinnis, Chief McEwen, and several FirstNet staff members. FirstNet participated in the Kansas Statewide Broadband Conference in Kansas City on January 20, and an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) FirstNet focused webinar on January 22.
- We completed all 10 monthly regional SPOC/SWIC calls January 21-26. During those calls, we solicited feedback and input on format and content for 2015 quarterly webinars, monthly regional calls as well as other potential forums. The feedback has been very helpful as we look for ways to make the time spent as productive and helpful as possible. A continuing theme during this feedback request was the value of the state/territory/district roundtable sessions on the monthly calls. We're looking for ways to share some of that information across the regions. Another common comment was the appreciation of and request for ongoing information coming from FirstNet's technical team.
- Kentucky's initial consultation meeting is scheduled for January 28. Other upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Texas (2/11), Delaware (2/19), Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).

- To date, FirstNet has received completed consultation checklists from 46 of 56 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- FirstNet has posted an update to the “FirstNet by the Numbers” document. You can find the new version at <http://www.firstnet.gov/resources>.

From the States and PSAC Organizations

- This week FirstNet will be at the California Town Hall in Humboldt County, focusing on Tribal outreach with the California FirstNet Team. We will also join the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Interoperable Nationwide Advanced Communications (MACINAC) 2nd Workshop in Richmond, VA.
- Sue Swenson, Jeff Johnson and several board members and FirstNet senior management have been participating in winter/board meetings of key public safety associations – National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), Major Cities Chiefs (MCC), Major Cities Sheriffs (MCS) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). These meetings continued throughout this past weekend and into this week.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

Media coverage focused on several different topics including FirstNet consultation with Federal and States/Territories and the BTOP projects. The Colorado consultation meeting was covered by a reporter from the *Mission Critical Radio Resources* trade publication, and she filed one article (of a planned two) on the event this week:

<http://mccmag.com/onlyonline.cfm?OnlyOnlineID=503>. NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association featured FirstNet in their Rural Telecom magazine January-February edition: <http://www.ntca.org/january-february-2015/firstnets-tj-kennedy-a-passion-for-public-safety.html>. Emergency communications developments from the Washington DC metro train incident were covered by tier 1 news outlets and trade publications. Key stories are listed below:

FCW: DHS Eyes FirstNet to Expand Mobile Capabilities

<http://fcw.com/articles/2015/01/21/dhs-eyes-firstnet.aspx>

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security believe the forthcoming national broadband network for emergencies and public safety could be a way to expand mission capabilities across its component agencies. "We're looking to leverage FirstNet [the First Responder Network Authority] and looking at what it could do," said Wolf Tombe, chief technology officer at Customs and Border Protection, during an AFCEA DC panel discussion on DHS procurement and mobile capabilities. "It has huge capability. It could open up communications at the border," where cellular communications can be spotty. FirstNet, overseen by the Commerce Department, will use 700 MHz wireless spectrum and high-speed Long Term Evolution (LTE) services to provide interoperable wireless communications for emergency responders nationwide. The project is in the process of developing a business plan and expanding its staff. "We're invested in FirstNet," said DHS Deputy CIO Margie Graves. Graves and Tombe said FirstNet is just one of the emerging mobile communications technologies DHS is seeking to exploit.

State Tech: How Local Governments Are Preparing for FirstNet

<http://www.statetechmagazine.com/article/2015/01/how-local-governments-are-preparing-firstnet>

Local governments update their infrastructure to prepare for the FirstNet public-safety network. First responders in Charlotte, N.C., can now access critical applications and data faster than ever, thanks to an \$11.2 million upgrade to the city's public-safety communications infrastructure. Charlotte's IT department is modernizing its network, adding Wi-Fi at police and fire stations and upgrading cellular connections in police cars and fire trucks from 3G to 4G Long-Term Evolution (LTE) technology. The wireless upgrade provides a dramatic speed injection for each vehicle's mobile computing devices. "A police lieutenant recently said, 'I feel like a caveman who discovered fire,' " says Randy Moulton, chief security officer for Charlotte. "The increased bandwidth makes a huge difference when they pull up apps. We were bottlenecked before."

Fierce Wireless: Proof-of-concept FirstNet Project Gets Underway in New Jersey

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/tech/story/proof-concept-firstnet-project-gets-underway-new-jersey/2015-01-19>

Setting out to meet an ambitious timeline, first responders in three regions of New Jersey are expected later this year to use a new dedicated public-safety LTE network composed entirely of deployable infrastructure operating on 700 MHz Band 14 spectrum licensed to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), IWCE's Urgent Communications reports. PMC Associates, a New Jersey-based company specializing in mission-critical radio solutions for first responders, is teaming up with Oceus Networks and Fujitsu Network Communications to build the proof-of-concept network, known as JerseyNet.

McAfee Blog: Another Communications Failure Emphasizes the Criticality of FirstNet

<https://blogs.mcafee.com/business/security-connected/another-communications-failure-emphasizes-criticality-firstnet>

For this post, I have turned my blogging pen over to my colleague Patrick Flynn, Intel Security Director of Homeland and National Security Programs, to articulate yet another reason FirstNet is needed. The news in DC recently has been focused on an incident on a Metro train that left one person dead and several injured after riders were stuck in a tunnel on a train that filled with smoke. While the incident is still under investigation, details are coming out about the response. Most recently, reports surfaced about the failure of the fire department's radios during incident response, particularly those in the metro tunnel where the train was stuck.

Government Security News: Mutualink's Tactical Collaboration Nodes to Power Mobile 4G LTE for JerseyNet's 14LTE Public Safety Network

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/43618?c=law_enforcement_first_responders

The New Jersey IRAPP connects hundreds of first responder agencies, emergency operations centers, hospitals and critical infrastructure entities into a secure, on-demand multimedia collaboration environment using existing infrastructure. Mutualink's technology will be installed in multiple JerseyNet System on Wheels (SOWs) and will also be deployed within tactical portable cases that tether to the SOWs and can also connect to other networks. The JerseyNet project is a first in the nation public safety-grade 4G LTE broadband network utilizing deployable network nodes. This network infrastructure will facilitate secure and reliable multimedia communications in both densely populated and rural locations for emergency response situations, as well as planned large-scale public gatherings.

Social Media

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused on outreach and consultation in the states and territories and on the recent communications challenges during the recent DC Metro fire. The IACP article from last week continued to receive significant and positive attention on social media this week. The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,509 followers, and the LinkedIn account has grown to more than 471 followers. We posted a number of blogs this past week detailing our outreach and consultation with federal stakeholders and the states:

<http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>.