



## WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY?

The [Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act](#) of 2012 (Act) created the [First Responder Network Authority](#). The law gives the First Responder Network Authority the mission to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The FirstNet network provides a single, interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

The First Responder Network Authority is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The First Responder Network Authority is governed by a 15-member Board composed of representatives from public safety; local, state and federal government; and the wireless industry. In March 2017, the First Responder Network Authority announced the selection of AT&T as its private sector network partner.

## WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)?

The Act required the establishment of a [Public Safety Advisory Committee \(PSAC\)](#). The current PSAC consists of [42 representatives](#) from associations and organizations from all disciplines of traditional and non-traditional public safety responders as well as local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal government. There are also 2 at large members. The PSAC is led by a 5-member Executive Committee and a PSAC Chair.

The mission of the PSAC is to assist the First Responder Network Authority in carrying out its duties to build, deploy, operate, and maintain the FirstNet network. Specifically, the PSAC:

- Offers the First Responder Network Authority a public safety perspective to ensure considerations and operational constructs necessary for critical first responder communications capabilities are included in FirstNet
- Provides subject matter expertise on concepts, policies, procedures, technologies, and operational methods developed by the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T
- Conducts regular meetings to remain up to date on the progress of FirstNet

The PSAC executes its mission by assembling various task teams and working groups, and hosting webinars, on device, application, governance, adoption, and other network security, technical, and operational features related to FirstNet. With the support of the First Responder Network Authority's various advocacy and technical staff, the PSAC meets monthly to provide direct and real-time feedback, contributions, and validation to reports and recommendations.

The PSAC is currently operating a monthly webinar series with representatives from the First Responder Network Authority's Operations Office, as well as with AT&T staff. These webinars serve to validate the results of stakeholder engagement efforts by the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T, and bolster those findings with additional operational and technical best practices from the PSAC.

Additionally, a standing Tribal Working Group (TWG) provides the First Responder Network Authority advice on tribal outreach, education, and tribal consultation. The TWG is led by the PSAC's tribal representative from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), comprised of 15 representatives from a broad cross section of multi-tribal



organizations, and works to ensure participation by tribal jurisdictions in the FirstNet network. The TWG also provided input to the First Responder Network Authority’s [Tribal Consultation Policy](#).

**Tribal Working Group (TWG) Organizations**



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians	Navajo Nation
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council	National Native American Fire Chiefs Association
Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association	National Tribal Emergency Management Council
American Public Health Association-American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Caucus	Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council
International Association of Chiefs of Police-Indian Country Law Enforcement Section	Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association
International Association of Emergency Managers-Tribal Affairs Caucus	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Indian Country Intelligence Network	United South and Eastern Tribes
National Congress of American Indians	

**WHAT WORK HAS THE PSAC COMPLETED?**

**Early Builders Working Group:** An Early Builders Working Group (EBWG) comprised of representatives from Adams County, Colorado (ADCOM); Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), California; Harris County, Texas; New Mexico; and New Jersey provided the First Responder Network Authority with early builder lessons learned and key performance indicators (KPIs) that assisted in planning for the FirstNet network.

**Application/Use Cases:** The PSAC developed use cases to illustrate how the envisioned technology, network, and applications could support incident response specific to each discipline.

**Eligible Users:** The PSAC developed a list of proposed eligible FirstNet network users and related definitions. This list informed the public notices the First Responder Network Authority released related to the definition and scope of public safety entities qualifying for use of the FirstNet network.

**Human Factors:** The PSAC analyzed the human elements that the First Responder Network Authority should consider when designing the FirstNet network, potential user issues, and how the FirstNet network will impact operations for first responders.

**Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM):** The ICAM task team explored issues that public safety agencies experience today due to the lack of interoperable ICAM solutions; documented recommended initial governance rules for ICAM use in public safety; proposed a framework for onboarding agencies into the use of federated identity; and examined potential existing ICAM solutions. The framework developed by this task team was incorporated into the



request for proposal (RFP) that the First Responder Network Authority released soliciting a private sector partner to build, operate, maintain, and improve the FirstNet network.

**Location Based Services (LBS):** The PSAC provided feedback on and validated key takeaways from an LBS use case report developed by the First Responder Network Authority to better understand drivers of the operational needs for horizontal and vertical accuracy.

**Local Control:** The Local Control task team provided recommendations to further define and refine the operational requirements of the First Responder Network Authority's Local Control application. The recommendations from this task team were incorporated into the FirstNet network RFP.

**Mission Critical Push to Talk:** The PSAC reviewed the findings of a Mission Critical Push to Talk (MCPTT) survey distributed to stakeholders by the First Responder Network Authority. This survey examined devices, features, and accessories; the MCPTT ecosystem; and those items most important for early adoption and land mobile radio transition.

**Preparing for Adoption:** The PSAC researched and recommended important public safety network elements as "differentiators" of the FirstNet network to use in conversations with agencies as they prepare for network adoption. They also developed a checklist to guide public safety entities and agencies in understanding key considerations necessary for adequately preparing to adopt the FirstNet network.

**Priority and Preemption:** The Priority and Preemption task team offered recommendations on an initial framework for implementing access prioritization, user preemption, and application prioritization on the FirstNet network.

**Public Safety Grade:** The Public Safety Grade task team proposed an initial methodology and framework for prioritizing and implementing public safety grade hardening recommendations.

**User Equipment:** The User Equipment task team recommended functional objectives and ergonomic considerations of Band 14 broadband user equipment and devices that will meet the operational needs of first responders.

**User Profiles:** The User Profiles task team advised the First Responder Network Authority on how to establish Day 1 profile templates to facilitate how a locality influences the network; and how to register public safety agencies, provision devices and users, and manage identities, credentials, and attributes. These Day 1 user profiles were essential to driving early adoption and successful initial use of the FirstNet network.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE PSAC?

For questions on the PSAC and its activities, please contact [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) or visit the [First Responder Network Authority website](#).

# Public Safety Advisory Committee

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials	Russ Buchholz
APCO	Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International	Martha Carter
APWA	American Public Works Association	Philip R. Mann
FCCA	Forestry Conservation Communications Association	Lloyd Mitchell
GHSAC	Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council	Major General Arthur Logan
IAB	Interagency Board	Chief Chris Lombard
IACP	International Association of Chiefs of Police	Mark Dunaski
IAEM	International Association of Emergency Managers	Joseph R. Sastre
IAFC	International Association of Fire Chiefs	Chief Gary McCarraher
ICMA	International City/County Management Association	Mark L. Ryckman
IMSA	International Municipal Signal Association	Paul Szoc
MCCA	Major Cities (Police) Chiefs Association	Chief Jonathan Lewin
MCSA	Major County Sheriffs of America	Mel Maier*
Metro Chiefs	Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association	Chief Mike Duyck*
NACo	National Association of Counties	Len Humphries
NAEMT	National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians	Don Lundy
NARC	National Association of Regional Councils	Curt Hagman
NASCIO	National Association of State Chief Information Officers	Darryl Ackley
NASEMSO	National Association of State EMS Officials	Paul R. Patrick**
NASNA	National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators	Blake DeRouchev
NASTD	National Association of State Technology Directors	Charlie Sasser
NATOA	National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors	Barry Fraser
NCAI	National Congress of American Indians	<i>Vacant</i>
NCJA	National Criminal Justice Association	John M. Sweeney
NCSL	National Conference of State Legislators	Brian Feldman
NCSWIC	National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators	Todd Early*
NEMA	National Emergency Management Association	Jeff Stern
NEMSMA	National EMS Management Association	Jonathan Olson
NENA	National Emergency Number Association	Dan Henry
NGA	National Governors Association	Jimmy Gianato
NLC	National League of Cities	Yucel (u-jel) Ors
Nlets	The International Justice and Public Safety Network	Frank Minice
NPSTC	National Public Safety Telecommunications Council	Chief Douglas Aiken
NSA	National Sheriffs' Association	Sheriff Larry D. Amerson
NVFC	National Volunteer Fire Council	Chief C. Reid Vaughan
SEARCH	National Consortium of Justice Information Statistics	Mark Perbix
USCM	U.S. Conference of Mayors	<i>Vacant</i>
At Large	SAFECOM EC	Michael Murphy
At Large	Fire Non-Management First Line Responder	Lieutenant Billy Freeman
At Large	Police Non-Management First Line Responder	James N. Mann
Federal	U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Kraig Moise
Federal	U.S. Department of Justice	David M. Rogers

\* Denotes member of PSAC Executive Committee \*\* Denotes Interim PSAC Executive Committee Chair