



# FirstNet®

# FirstNet EMS Update

June 2016

## Message from Kevin McGinnis, MPS, Paramedic, FirstNet Board Member and Community Paramedicine Chief of Maine's North East Mobile Health Services

*Our goal is to increase the EMS community's awareness about FirstNet, and we hope that this quarterly message will help EMS personnel learn more about our plans and progress, as well as ways you can participate in the FirstNet process in your state or territory.*

*FirstNet is moving as quickly as possible and making great progress towards getting this network up and running. What that means for you is that the time to get involved is now. EMS professionals will be conducting business much differently five years from now than they are today. This career field will continue to evolve as EMS professionals gain access to more advanced technologies and expand their roles to meet evolving community health needs. I believe that broadband capabilities will fundamentally change the way paramedics practice in the field – the way they make decisions about care for patients, where they're going to transport patients, and how they manage information in that process.*

*The nation's EMS personnel operate in a mobile environment: when duty calls, they need to have immediate access to all of their life saving tools, including communications. Yet, as the world around us has changed, with citizens and businesses utilizing myriad of portable devices and apps to stay connected, we have not yet begun to realize the full potential of new technologies. FirstNet's goal is to equip first responders with the 21st century technology they need to do their essential job – save lives and property.*

Thanks,  
Kevin



## The FirstNet Mission

For those who may not know much about FirstNet, we were established by Congress as an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. [FirstNet 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 on the Board. In addition to Kevin McGinnis who represents EMS interests, the Board includes a Retired Fire Chief, Sheriff, Police Chief, 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 EMS, fire, law enforcement, and other public safety agencies. Once built, the FirstNet network will provide EMS 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>.

## The Internet of Life Saving Things

Emergency Medical Services are on the cusp of a revolution being brought on by technology. In the not to distance future, EMTs won't just be sending vitals but holding high-definition, two way video dialogs with the ER doctor as they are en-route. This real-time relay of information will allow hospitals to see what is coming from the



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field ahead of time. Later this year, TJ Kennedy, President of FirstNet, will speak at the [2016 EMS World Expo](#) and discuss how technology and connectivity will bring about the “[Internet of Life Saving Things](#),” making a huge difference in the field and helping to improve the continuum of care.

### **On the Blog: Use of UAVS (or Drones) for EMS?**

FirstNet recently released a new blog series, “[A Day in the Life: Stories of Broadband Saving Lives and Property](#)”. In the new blog series, FirstNet will be telling the stories of first responders from all parts of the country. A recent post looked at the [potential scenario for UAVs](#) to improve EMS operations.

FirstNet has learned through its consultation and outreach efforts that many emergency medical service personnel 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/>.

### **Consultation and Outreach to Public Safety**

The Governor in each state and territory has appointed a [single point of contact \(SPOC\)](#) to coordinate the planning and outreach for FirstNet. This ongoing process is called “consultation,” and is one of FirstNet’s top priorities as we begin to design how the network will be built.

During the first quarter of 2016, [FirstNet has been meeting with states and territories and to date](#), we have completed 54 SPOC Consultation kick-off meetings. 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 EMS personnel 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. 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 current taskings as requested by FirstNet.



#### **Previous Taskings**

- 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

## Current Taskings

- 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](#).

## RFP Update

The deadline for proposals is now closed. We are very pleased with the [level of interest in the RFP process](#) to date and we are confident that the procurement will lead to the best possible solution for public safety. We are now moving forward in the evaluation process and remain on track for the partnership award in November. Learn about the NPSBN RFP in [this 60 second video](#).



## Ways To Connect With Firstnet

Please feel free to reach out to Brent Williams at [Brent.Williams@firstnet.gov](mailto:Brent.Williams@firstnet.gov) or Kevin McGinnis at [Kevin.McGinnis@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Kevin.McGinnis@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 EMS events:

Event Name	Event Date	Event Location: City
Missouri EMS Association	6/30/2016	Lake of the Ozarks, MI
Nebraska EMS Conference	7/8-10/2016	Kearney, NE
Florida EMS ClinCon	7/12-16/2016	Orlando, FL
Tennessee EMS Education Association	7/13-15/2016	Murfreesboro, TN
2016 East Alabama EMS Chiefs Conference	9/7-8/2016	Oxford, AL
NAEMSO Fall 2016 Meeting	9/19-23/2016	Albuquerque, NM
California EMS Administrators Conference	9/20/2016	San Diego, CA
Pennsylvania EMS Conference	9/21-23/2016	Lancaster, PA
EMS World Expo	10/5-7/2016	New Orleans, LA

For more info on FirstNet upcoming speaking engagements, visit <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/events>. Thanks for taking the time to read about FirstNet. We look forward to working with you.

## Social Media



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



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