



# PSHS Bulletin



A Publication of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

March 2012

## First Responder Board for Technical Interoperability

By Bob Pavlak, Brian Hurley and Jason Kim



From Left to Right: Charles L. K. Robinson, City of Charlotte, North Carolina; Dr. Kenneth C. Budka, Alcatel-Lucent; Brian Shepherd, Adams County Communications Center, Inc.; Brenda L. Decker, State of Nebraska; Ronald Strecker, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. & Panhandle Telecommunications Systems, Inc.; Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Steve Proctor, Utah Communications Agency Network; Ed Chao, MetroPCS Communications, Inc.; Dr. Dennis Martinez, Harris Corporation; Colonel Kenneth C. Hughes, Jr., (Ret), New Orleans Urban Area Security Initiative; Dereck Orr, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Todd Bianchi, Washington, DC Fire and EMS Department; Paul Steinberg, Motorola Solutions, Inc. Not pictured: Robert Azzi, Sprint Nextel Corporation; Bill Price, State of Florida; Diane C. Wesche, Verizon Wireless.

On February 22, 2012, the President signed into law the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act), which sets forth a statutory plan for development of a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network in the 700 MHz band.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the Spectrum Act directs the Commission to license the public safety broadband spectrum and the spectrally adjacent “D Block” spectrum to the National First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).<sup>2</sup> FirstNet is an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) tasked with overseeing development of the network.<sup>3</sup> The Spectrum Act further directs the Commission to “take all actions necessary to facilitate the transition” to FirstNet of the spectrum currently licensed to the PSST.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the Spectrum Act establishes within the Commission a Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability (Interoperability Board) charged with developing recommended minimum technical requirements for nationwide interoperability in consultation with NTIA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (DHS OEC). The Spectrum Act directed the Chairman to appoint the fourteen voting members of this board, and he announced his selections in a public notice issued on

Thursday, March 22, 2012. They are joined by a fifteenth, non-voting member appointed by NTIA.

The Interoperability Board has until May 22, 2012 to submit its recommendations to the Commission, who must then transmit them with possible revisions to FirstNet within thirty days. Fifteen days after this occurs, the Interoperability Board terminates. Under the Spectrum Act, FirstNet will incorporate the recommended requirements, without material change, into its Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for construction and operation of the network.

ERIC is dedicated to assisting the Interoperability Board as appropriate as it develops its recommendations. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in very little time, but we are already off to a great start. The Board met on Monday, March 26, 2012 for their first meeting, where they were welcomed by the Chairman and PSHSB Chief Jamie Barnett. Chief Barnett remarked that “the most critical element of” the public safety broadband network—interoperability—“is entrusted to the FCC and this Board.” He further noted that the Board’s success “will be the foundation that ensures NTIA’s and the First Network Authority’s successful deployment of a truly interoperable nationwide network.”

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<sup>1</sup> Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-96, 126 Stat. 156 (2012).

<sup>2</sup> Id. § 6201(a), 126 Stat. at 206.

<sup>3</sup> Id. § 6202(a), 126 Stat. at 206.

<sup>4</sup> Id. § 6201(c), 126 Stat. at 206.

**First Responder Board for Technical Interoperability, cont'd.**

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The members of the Interoperability Board are distinguished members of the public safety community, government, and private sector manufacturers and operators, and they bring with them significant experience in support of public safety's mission of emergency response and public safety communications. The members of the Interoperability Board are listed below, along with the organization that they represent and the membership group (membership groups are identified in the provisions of the Spectrum Act).

On Friday, March 23, 2012, as directed in the provisions of the Spectrum Act, the Interoperability Board members voted to elect the Chair, Chuck Robinson, and the Vice Chair, Ken Budka of the Interoperability Board. We look forward to assisting the Chair and Vice Chair as they lead the Interoperability Board with developing recommended minimum technical requirements for nationwide interoperability. ■

Name & Title	Organization & Membership Group
Robert Azzi, Senior Vice President, Network	Sprint Nextel Corporation, National Wireless Provider
Diane C. Wesche, Director, Government Network & Technology	Verizon Wireless, National Wireless Provider
Ed Chao, Senior Vice President, Corporate Engineering and Network Operations	MetroPCS Communications, Inc., Regional Wireless Provider
Ronald Strecker, CEO, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Panhandle Telecommunications Systems, Inc.	Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Panhandle Telecommunications Systems, Inc., Rural Wireless Provider
Dr. Kenneth C. Budka, Senior Director, Advanced Mission-Critical Communications/Network Performance and Reliability	Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs, Equipment Manufacturer
Dr. Dennis Martinez, CTO, RF Communications Division	Harris Corporation, Equipment Manufacturer
Paul Steinberg, Senior VP and CTO	Motorola Solutions, Inc., Equipment Manufacturer
Steve Proctor, Executive Director, Utah Communications Agency Network	Utah Communications Agency Network, Public Safety Entity
Colonel Kenneth C. Hughes, Jr., (Ret), Regional Communications Coordinator	New Orleans Urban Area Security Initiative, Public Safety Entity
Brian Shepherd, Deputy Director	Adams County Communications Center, Inc., Management Level Employee of Public Safety Entity
Todd Bianchi, Firefighter Paramedic, Washington, DC Fire and EMS Department	Washington DC Mayor's Office, Employee of Public Safety Entity
Bill Price, Director Broadband Programs,	Department of Management Services, Division of Telecommunications, State of Florida, State and Local Government
Brenda L. Decker, Chief Information Officer	State of Nebraska, State and Local Government
Charles L. K. Robinson, Director, Business Support Services	City of Charlotte, North Carolina, State and Local Government
Dereck Orr, Program Manager for Public Safety Communication Standards	National Institute of Standards and Technology (Appointed by NTIA)

**CSRIC**

By Jane Kelly

The Communication’s Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council, which we all know as “CSRIC,” is a federal advisory committee, established at the direction of the FCC Chairman in March 2011. The purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the FCC on ways to improve the security, reliability, and interoperability of our Nation’s communications systems.

At the most recent CSRIC meeting, which occurred March 22, 2012, the membership unanimously adopted the first phase of recommendations for voluntary action by Internet service providers (ISPs) to combat three major cyber security threats: botnets, attacks on the Domain Name System (DNS), and Internet route hijacking. The adoption of these voluntary measure to combat critical cyber threats is a watershed moment. Chairman Genachowski and Miriam Perlberg from the White House National Security Staff attended the meeting to emphasize the importance of the work and to recognize the companies involved with CSRIC or its working groups that have already committed to implement these recommendations: AT&T, CenturyLink, Comcast, Cox, Sprint, TimeWarnerCable, T-Mobile and Verizon. Other companies, such as Frontier, have also committed to adopt these voluntary measures.

On March 28, 2012 Bureau Chief Jamie Barnett testified before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee about the CSRIC’s cybersecurity work. The public private multi-stakeholder approach was lauded by members of the Committee.

A little about CSRIC: The Council is composed of 50 members who represent a diverse cross section of America’s communications community. These include high-ranking officials from major private telecommunications and broadcast companies, representatives from special interest and trade organizations and communications specialists from federal, state, local and tribal governments. Members of the Council are nominated by their companies or organizations and appointed by the Chairman of the FCC. Members are selected to provide balanced expertise and viewpoints on a variety of complex and often contentious issues.

The CSRIC is the manifestation of the FCC’s commitment to working with private and public stakeholders in the communications community to address some of the most difficult and pressing issues we face with respect to cyber security and emergency communications. The members of the Council represent a wide range of interests, expertise, experience and viewpoints, which has the best chance of leading to the most thorough and compelling solutions.

CSRIC is chartered to last two years, and the current charter runs through March 2013. Under the current charter, the Council is charged with developing recommendations on reducing and preventing adverse cyber events; the availability of communications capacity and alerting during natural disasters, terrorist attacks, cyber security attacks or other events that result in exceptional strain on the communications infrastructure; and the rapid restoration of communications services in the event of widespread or major disruptions and the steps communications providers can take to help secure end-users and servers.

The Council forms working groups to address each issue. Working groups are composed of CSRIC members and others interested with relevant expertise. A member of the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security staff is assigned as a liaison to each working group. The working groups produce reports recommending courses of action on their assigned topics, which are then presented to the full CSRIC for a vote at its quarterly meeting.

Also at its March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Council approved recommendations on NG9-1-1, E9-1-1 Location Accuracy, and issues associated with CAP Migration for EAS. Progress reports were made on next generation alerting, network security best practices, E9-1-1 best practices, and wireless 9-1-1 prioritization.

This cooperative, multi-stakeholder approach is the best method for dealing with today’s most challenging communications issues. CSRIC meetings are open to the public, and we invite and encourage you to come observe this impressive group of leaders at their next meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> as they discussions solutions to issues that will directly impact the future of our Nation’s communications.



**Upcoming Events**

- April 27, 2012 - Open Commission Meeting, FCC Headquarters, Washington, DC

For more information about the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, visit our webpage at <http://www.fcc.gov/public-safety-homeland-security-bureau> or email us at [pshsbinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:pshsbinfo@fcc.gov).

**Questions or Comments?** Email your questions or comments concerning the content of this bulletin to Kim Anderson ([kim.anderson@fcc.gov](mailto:kim.anderson@fcc.gov)).