

NPSTC Presents Local Control Report to PSAC for FirstNet Consideration

Mission Critical Communicaitons By Staff

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The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) presented its latest report and recommendations on local control to the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) for consideration by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).

“Public Safety Entity Control and Monitoring Requirements for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network” outlines public safety’s needs and expectations for local control of the nationwide public-safety broadband network (NPSBN).

For the purposes of the NPSTC document, a public-safety entity (PSE) is defined as federal, state, local and tribal public-safety organizations that use communications services from the NPSBN to provide public-safety services in response to an incident or planned event.

Local control means the ability of PSEs at all jurisdictional levels — federal, state, local and tribal — to configure and monitor their communications systems to adapt to changing mission requirements and system conditions. The phrase “changing mission requirements” denotes a situational continuum ranging from routine to crisis.

The central dilemma of local control in a shared network environment is a balancing of the genuine need of PSEs to independently configure their communications with the equally important political and social needs to share resources equitably among primary NPSBN users. The resolution of the dilemma requires attention to people, process and technology.

Such issues are changes in a PSE user’s perception of “their” communications network, facilitated interagency processes and educational opportunities, and technical means for avoiding inefficient use of shared capacity or resources that would cause a negative impact on the network.

The full report is [here](#) .

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