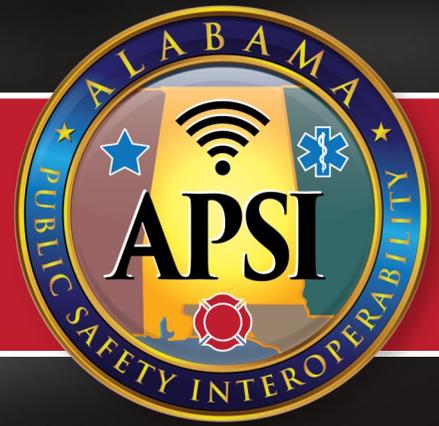


ALABAMA PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016



ALABAMA INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT

The 2016 Alabama Interoperable Communications Summit, held January 11 and 12 in Orange Beach, Alabama featured Federal, State, and Local agencies sharing their expertise in the fields of P25 in the State, local interoperability, and other communications issues that affect public safety on a daily basis.

The event was a major success with 129 attendees. Our agenda included sessions on nationwide interoperability initiatives, the Alabama Interoperable Radio System (AIRS), The Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission (AFRWC) and many other topics.



SOUTHEASTERN U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND SUMMIT

The 2016 Southeastern U.S. Public Safety Broadband Summit, which took place January 13 and 14, brought together representatives from 11 Southeastern states and beyond, FirstNet, the Department of Commerce/NTIA and members of the vendor community with 164 participants in total. Speakers discussed planning for the deployment of the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), including updates on State Consultations, Tribal participation, rural challenges, and technology updates.



DIVISIONAL OUTREACH

The State held regional presentations and webinars for all seven Divisional Advisory Committees (DACs) in Alabama; a total of 14 stakeholder outreach sessions in Fall 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce stakeholders to FirstNet, to the Alabama Public Safety Broadband (APSB) project and project team, and to the State's request for support from stakeholders.

The DAC meetings were held in-person in 7 different locations throughout the state. These meetings targeted DAC membership, who broadly represent public safety interests including law enforcement, fire, EMS, public health and elected officials.



Where do we come in?

The diagram features a central red double-headed arrow labeled "CONSULTATION PROCESS". To the left of the arrow are four icons: a police badge, a fire flame, a Wi-Fi signal, and a medical cross. To the right of the arrow is a red outline of Alabama with the text "POC: STAN STABLER" and "LEAD: CHUCK MURPH". Above the arrow is the APSB logo. Below the diagram is a text box: "Before FirstNet can build in any state, it must present a **State Plan** that is approved by the governor. Our program mission is to develop requirements to ensure the State Plan is successful."

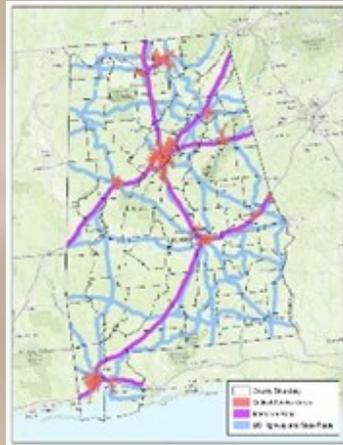
Our webinars were conducted for Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) organized by the 7 DACs throughout the state using WebEx. These sessions specifically targeted emergency managers instead of the broader DAC membership. The webinar content included an introduction to FirstNet as well as a call for support developing requirements for the system and assisting

in determining key stakeholder participants and contact information. Through the duration of the project, stakeholder input will be vital in establishing sufficient requirements and we will rely on county EMAs to connect us with the stakeholders we need to reach.

PHASED COVERAGE

To fulfill FirstNet's request for guidance regarding the build-out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), the State intends to collect your feedback to propose five incremental phases that prioritize the deployment of the NPSBN. We developed these preliminary coverage objectives based entirely on a statistical approach that looked at major population centers, roadways, navigable waterways, places of community interest and other quantifiable data. These objectives will be vetted with stakeholders as part of a comprehensive outreach, education and requirements gathering process through the first half of 2016. When this process is complete, Alabama will publish its final requirements. These requirements will be used to evaluate FirstNet's State Plan for implementing the NPSBN.

Each coverage phase represents the required NPSBN coverage at the end of a year; Phase 1 represents the coverage requirement at the end of the first year of implementation and Phase 5 represents the coverage requirement at the end of the fifth year of implementation.



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3



Phase 4



Phase 5

UPCOMING TASKS

Surveys

Web-based surveys will be distributed to the head of each public safety entity in Alabama. These surveys are a key component for quantifying the user base as well as identifying potential barriers to wireless adoption, assessing broadband market trends, and interoperability/radio topics.

Completing this survey is important for a number of reasons:

- It is a requirement of the Grant and a key marker in the Consultation process
- Your responses help in the budgeting of the State's strategic plan
- It identifies preferred device types to ensure they are made available on the FirstNet network
- It helps identify barriers to adoption for potential future grant opportunities

Coverage Reviews

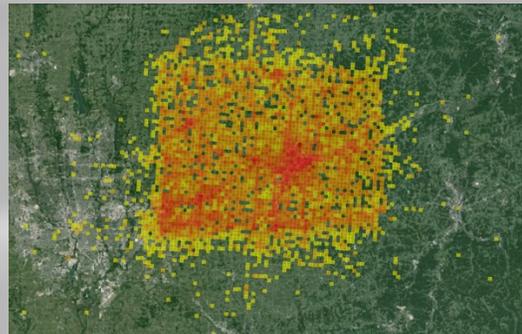
The State will perform interactive Coverage Reviews with each county in Alabama. Meetings will be conducted over webinar and conference call in order to allow for the greatest participation by stakeholders from each public safety entity in the county. This will include Sheriff's Departments, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Police Departments, Fire Departments, EMS, and other agencies.

Prior to conducting each coverage review, we will request that each agency provide three years of incident CAD data. We will use this CAD data to generate a heatmap depicting the density of incidents throughout the county. An example of heatmap using sample data for a single county is depicted in the figure below.

Using mapped CAD/RMS data as a basis for guiding the conversation, the purpose of the Coverage Review is to identify three types of areas within the county:

1. **Critical Service Areas** (the area of Highest Priority); defined as:

- a. Where FirstNet coverage is desired first and where it is needed the most; where public safety grade service is of the most value
- b. An area of highest-activity based on historical CAD incident data records
- c. An area with critical infrastructure, anchor institution, or public venue



2. **Required Service Areas** (the area where day-to-day service is required; the "Need"); defined as:

- a. The current commercial cellular service footprint
- b. The baseline for the minimum coverage expectation; the minimum coverage required to adopt the FirstNet service

3. **Extended Service Areas** (the areas where they public safety would like to see the wireless service extended; the "Want"); defined as:

- a. The area where commercial carriers do not serve, or where the coverage is not sufficient for the needs of public safety, and
- b. The area where deployable or satellite is not acceptable

Please be on the lookout for requests for CAD/RMS data in the coming weeks, followed by invitations to these very important Coverage Reviews. Gathering this data from the first responders relying on the network ensures that your coverage requirements can be conveyed to FirstNet as they build a Public Safety Broadband Network in Alabama.

Contact Us

Charles R. Murph, Jr., Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
charles.murph@alea.gov
<http://afrwc.alabama.gov>