

Office of Interoperability Newsletter

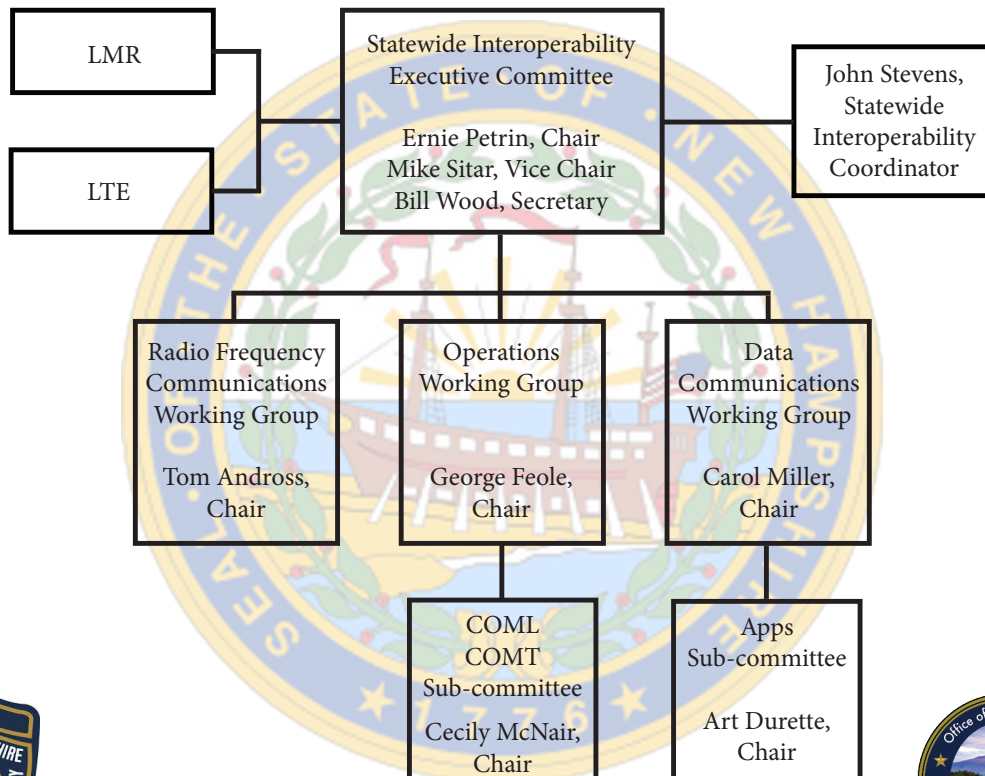


Message from John T. Stevens, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) & Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for FirstNet in NH



As the summer months are sadly coming to a close the change of seasons often signifies many other changes as Fall is upon us. In June of this year Governor Sununu signed House Bill 1545, sponsored by Representative Daniel Eaton, which increased the membership of the SIEC. Recognized by many once the SIEC was lawfully constituted in 2014, there were a number of public safety entities from throughout the state that were, through no one's fault, not represented on the SIEC. This situation has been corrected as of June as we welcome the new membership. The change in membership required an update to our Charter that has been approved by the SIEC's Leadership Group. In addition to the Charter being updated, an Applications Sub-committee has been established under the direction of the Data Communications Working Group to

investigate and research applications to assist public safety when making FirstNet and interoperability decisions. You have previously been provided with an updated Charter and the SIEC Organizational Chart is posted below. Letters will be sent to all members from the Commissioner of Safety, the appointing authority, thanking all for their contributions to the SIEC and encouraging members new and old, to take a proactive role in promoting interoperable communications throughout New Hampshire.



An offer of thanks and gratitude is extended to all those who participated in the two-day 2018 SCIP-update Workshop in May. The work that was accomplished has provided us with a road map, laced with Goals and Objectives, along with timelines for completion over the next few years regarding issues associated with interoperable communications. US DHS OEC has been a tremendous partner in this regard and it is with much appreciation we thank them for their continued support of the State of New Hampshire.



The collaborative work environment that has been created in New Hampshire with FirstNet/ AT&T is a model for the rest of the country. To date, we have conducted seventy-four (74) outreach meetings with first responders from throughout the State to allow for an exchange of information with FirstNet and AT&T. We have also conducted monthly meetings with FirstNet and AT&T to track progress on the network regarding the development of the AT&T infrastructure in New Hampshire and the expectations for future development. We remain encouraged by the efforts of AT&T as we'll continue to promote public safety's interest in the network.

New Hampshire was actually one of the first state's in the country to have delivered an AT&T Cell on Light Truck (COLT) that was promised according to what they referred to as their 9/30 plan for delivery. It actually arrived a few days early and on its first day in New Hampshire was deployed to the Merrimack Valley in Massachusetts to assist in cell phone reception during the natural gas fires emergency that plagued Lawrence, Lowell, and Andover. This past summer, New Hampshire engaged with the National Governor's Association and other states from throughout the country in a meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. to discuss the success and challenges that exist with interoperable communications and next generation 9-1-1. As we address the numerous challenges that exist in New Hampshire regarding these two entities, we are also so very much encouraged and excited that New Hampshire is considered a model for the rest of the country as to how we conduct our business and the safety services we provide to our citizens. Make no mistake, New Hampshire is nationally recognized, applauded, and is often sought after for direction and consultation and it's because of your efforts that New Hampshire receives these recognitions.

On October 30th, 2018 New Hampshire will conduct a Tactical Interoperable Communication Field Operations Guide (TIC-FOG) Workshop sponsored by US DHS OEC through their Technical Assistance (TA) Program. Much data is currently being collected in support of this workshop that will provide for first responders statewide to have a statewide interoperability communications pocket-guide that can be referenced during any emergent circumstances throughout New Hampshire.

As we move through the Fall period into early winter and the upcoming Holiday Season, we will remain highly engaged in the activities that have made us all successful. Continuation of the FirstNet/ AT&T Outreach Program, Policy and Procedure development, Interoperability challenges addressed and met, encouraging a communications component embedded in every statewide exercise, addressing goals and objectives outlined in the 2018 SCIP, monthly SIEC Work Group Meetings, and working with the SIEC's Executive Leadership Group to promote a collaborate effort in assisting public safety agencies in their communications challenges will be the work of the Office of Interoperability.

Looking forward to meeting with you all again at our next quarterly SIEC Meeting on November 9th, 2018.

FirstNet CEO Mike Poth Announces Resignation

His departure will mark the third high-profile exit in recent weeks.

By Ryan Johnston | September 6, 2018

FirstNet, the federal government's nationwide public safety communications network being built by AT&T, has filled one of its seven open board spots through the reappointment of board member Edward Horowitz — but will have to find a replacement for its CEO, Mike Poth, who announced his resignation Wednesday afternoon.

Poth oversaw the the First Responder Network Authority, also called the FirstNet Authority, which operates as an individual agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is expected to resign by the end of the month for an opportunity in the private sector after having led the agency for less than three years.

“Now, FirstNet is here,” Poth said in a press statement. “Together with AT&T and the public-safety community, FirstNet is fully prepared to continue its momentum. In the meantime, I will be focusing my efforts on ensuring the smoothest transition for FirstNet and all of its stakeholders.”

Before joining FirstNet, Poth spent 14 years as an executive at defense contractor Northrop Grumman and four years as a vice president for Hewlett Packard Enterprise's state and local government business.

His departure is the third high-level exit FirstNet has seen in recent weeks, following the departures of Board Chair Sue Swenson and Vice Chair Jeffrey Johnson in August. A press release from the U.S National Telecommunications and Information Administration and FirstNet said that the board will select a new CEO with the Department of Commerce, and for the interim will appoint an acting CEO.

“Mike Poth took the helm at a critical time and has been a driving force behind FirstNet's success,” said David Redl, NTIA's assistant secretary of commerce for communications and information in a statement. “We are grateful for his service, and he leaves us with a clear path for the ongoing deployment of a nationwide public safety network. I am confident that under the leadership of Ed Horowitz, the Board and FirstNet will continue to deliver for public safety, in coordination with AT&T, without interruption.”

Edward Horowitz, who was appointed to a two-year term as chair of the board by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, will serve as the replacement to Sue Swenson.

A full FirstNet board has 15 members — 12 rotating appointees and three permanent members that include the attorney general, the secretary of Homeland Security and the director of the Office of Management and Budget. Currently, it has six spots open. To help achieve a quorum for its next quarterly meeting in December, the NTIA said three members — Neil E. Cox, Kevin McGinnis and Annise D. Parker — have agreed to extend their terms, which expired last month.

Article originally posted on State Scoop

<https://statescoop.com/firstnet-appoints-new-board-chairman-but-ceo-announces-departure>

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