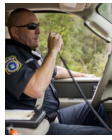




Winter 2022

Office of the SWIC Newsletter



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



The holiday season has arrived with the hustle and bustle that only the holiday season can bring. As we look to close out the year, we look back to all the accomplishments with the sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work of so many that often results in New Hampshire being a model for the rest of the nation. The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee in of itself is a constant model by which many states would love to emulate. New Hampshire is held to its highest esteem not only by the words of others, but by the actions of so many that has created this unparalleled environment of collaboration and cooperation. We do this voluntarily, only asking that what we do results in a safer work environment for

our public safety community.

Meetings in Concord are normal for the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) through the quarterly SIEC Meetings and its Working Groups, but the meetings that take place in the communities throughout the state address specific interoperable challenges that can only be assessed when they're experienced in-person. Certainly in 2022 we had the occasion to meet in the community, but it is our intent in 2023 to expand those meetings and truly address the challenges that exist statewide.

Our engagement with FirstNet/AT&T during the first five-year infrastructure build plan has brought broadband connectivity to our public safety community that has never before been experienced. Communities across the state now have next generation communications technology that can aid and assist them certainly in times of emergency, but in everyday practice as well. The first five-years of this twenty-five year commitment by AT&T to deliver FirstNet capability will conclude in the first quarter of 2023 on March 31st, 2023. It is our intent to continue to collaborate with FirstNet/AT&T and hold them accountable to provide FirstNet connectivity to every first responder statewide who seeks that opportunity.

The SIEC and the Department of Safety are particularly proud of the association we have with Mutualink. The State of New Hampshire, and I would expect many other states as well, attempts to communicate across disparate networks where firewalls, if you will, preclude any opportunity to communicate across all spectrums. Mutualink provides that opportunity as an agnostic caretaker that provides the platform to connect LTE and LMR no matter the systems in place and causes no further financial obligation in new investments. An example of Mutualink's capability to share voice, text, and video is exemplified by its proven ability to share connectivity to aviation assets. Combining FirstNet with the Mutualink platform exists today in New Hampshire State Police aviation assets that can share video across all spectrums. This capability is only possible because FirstNet and Mutualink have led us into the 21st Century.

The US Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has once



again in 2022 been instrumental in providing guidance to New Hampshire through their Technical Assistance (TA) program. Drive testing in Belknap and Carroll Counties, a Communications Focused TTX at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, development to enhance the Interoperable Field Operations Guide (IFOG) into an electronic guide application called and EFOG is well on its way, along with updating the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The SCIP will soon to be distributed in early 2023, setting goals and objectives to be reached in the next three to five years. All of what has been previously mentioned has made for an extremely busy year as we have supported these programs through development and logistics planning. The partnerships created through CISA, FirstNet/AT&T, and Mutualink have become the cornerstone of next generation communications technology where New Hampshire is looked upon as a leader of excellence.

As we close out 2022 and prepare for the holiday season, from the SWIC's Office, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year.

John T. Stevens, SWIC
New Hampshire Department of Safety

Recent Events

Congrats to the recent COML & COMT graduates!



Paul Steele, COMT & COML



Rob Farley, COMT



Josh Mann, COMT

Although we are proud to celebrate our many accomplishments, we would be remiss however, if we didn't offer our Sincere and Best Wishes to PJ Steele for a complete recovery from a very serious medical condition. PJ shortly after being awarded and certified by the SIEC and recognized by the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid as a COML and COMT, suffered a life threatening illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family for a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy, and Happy 2023.

TTX at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport



Day 1: TTX



Day 2: Quick Look

New Hampshire Public Safety Official Receives Harlin McEwen Award

Radio Resource Mission Critical Communications

New Hampshire public safety leader John Stevens has been awarded the prestigious Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award (Harlin McEwen Award) for his leadership and commitment to the advancement of broadband communications for public safety personnel.

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) announced the award at its quarterly Board meeting. The FirstNet Authority established the award in honor of Chief (ret.) Harlin R. McEwen, who was critical to the establishment of FirstNet and served as the founding chair of the FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee.

"I am honored to receive the Harlin McEwen Award," said John Stevens. "Throughout my career, I've had the pleasure of working alongside the men and women who protect our communities in New Hampshire. Advocating for New Hampshire's police, fire, and emergency medical personnel and public safety dispatch has been the highlight of my career. I truly believe that they deserve nothing but the very best."

For nearly ten years, Stevens has served as the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) in the Commissioner's Office and the Division of Emergency Services and Communications for the New Hampshire Department of Safety. As the SWIC, he is responsible for coordinating interoperable communications for public safety across the state—including federal, state, county, and local government agencies, as well as non-governmental agencies and the private sector. Stevens coordinates a variety of activities critical to statewide public safety communications, including broadband planning and the deployment of FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network.

"John Stevens is a leader in the field of public safety communications and a strong advocate for New Hampshire's first responders. Throughout his career, John has been focused on delivering the best possible coverage, technologies, and operating conditions for the public safety community in his state," said FirstNet Authority Board Chair Steve Benjamin. "His expertise and leadership are the epitome of the Harlin McEwen Award. We congratulate John on this well-deserved accomplishment."

The FirstNet Authority established the Harlin McEwen Award in 2017 to honor the commitment, dedication, and service of leaders in public safety communications. The award is given to an individual who has helped advance broadband communications for daily public safety operations and emergency response.

"I'm very proud that a member of our team received this award," said New Hampshire Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn. "John works hard every day to ensure first responders stay connected across our state. I congratulate him for this recognition of his efforts and dedication."

Stevens's reputation and standing are well known across New England and the nation. Prior to becoming the New Hampshire SWIC, he served as a Commanding Officer with the New Hampshire State Police, managing Troop Operations. Later, as a contractor, he applied this public safety expertise to assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in developing preparedness protocols for many of the nation's national security special events.

The FirstNet Authority is an independent entity within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Created in 2012, its mission is to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide broadband network. Learn more at FirstNet.com.

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/21904>

Have a news story you'd like us to feature? Drop us a line.

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