Executive Order 34

• Before Executive Order 34, no one body was tasked to work towards a resolution to the state’s first responder communication problems.
• This executive order created a commission that focused on how to best meet the communication needs of all first responders across the state.
• Federal, State, Local & Tribal jurisdictions currently operate numerous disparate communication systems that cover the same area.
• State communication infrastructure (towers, microwave, shelters, etc.) is limited and in most cases will not facilitate additional equipment to provide public safety grade communications.
• Required ALL state agencies to work together for the common goal.
Act 2013-330 (House Bill 92), codified the Governor’s Executive Order 34 and permanently created the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission.

- The AFRWC is comprised of 28 commissioners representing State, County, and Municipal first responders from Law, Fire, EMA, EMS and other disciplines.
Commission Membership

- The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency;
- The Director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency;
- The Director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety;
- The Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation;
- The Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard;
- The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- The Director of the Alabama Department of Corrections;
- The Director of the Alabama Department of Finance (CIO);
- The State Wide Interoperability Coordinator;
- The Commissioner of the Alabama Forestry Commission;
- The Director of the Alabama Department of Public Health;
- The Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control;
- The Director of the Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs;
- The Alabama Fire Marshall;
- The Commissioner of Alabama AG & Industries;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Sheriffs Association;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs;
- The Chairperson of the Federal Communications Commission’s Region 1, 700MHz Regional Planning Committee;
- A representative of the Poarch Creek Band of Creek Indians;
- A representative as appointed by the National Emergency Number Association of Alabama;
- A representative as appointed by the Alabama Association of 911 Districts;
- A representative as appointed by the ACCA;
- A representative as appointed by the AL League of Municipalities; and
- A representative as appointed by the Governor.
So now what?

• Act 2013-330 (HB92) created the Commission and gave the appropriate authority to begin addressing deficiencies relating to communications for our First Responders.

• It also provided the governance structure needed to bring all the relevant players to the table from both state and local response agencies.

• Most of all, it provided a unified approach that did not alienate local input into a statewide solution.
The Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission’s (AFRWC) vision is to strengthen public safety emergency communications and interoperability and to create a unified and integrated voice/data communications platform, with the technology, equipment, and procedures necessary to allow first responder and public safety agencies at the State, County, Tribal, and Municipal levels to communicate to safely, effectively, and efficiently to protect the people of Alabama.
Mission Statement

The mission of the AFRWC is to establish and sustain innovative and consensus-based approaches to mission-critical wireless communications technology and interagency partnerships that lead to seamless communications among public safety agencies serving the citizens of Alabama. Responsibilities of the Commission include:

• Strategic planning of public safety spectrum and serving as the intergovernmental bridge between Federal, State, Local, Tribal and private entities to foster and promote collaboration and information sharing

• Promoting the efficient use of public resources to ensure that essential public safety personnel have effective communications

• Planning, building, implementing and maintaining radio access networks and their application in public safety, public health, and public works
The AFRWC has created workgroups to assist the commission in meeting its goals and objectives:

- Project 25 System Administrators Workgroup
- State Agencies Workgroup
- Broadband & Radio Users Workgroup
  - Comprised of Chairpersons from the Divisional Advisory Committees***
- Policies and Procedures Workgroup
Divisional Advisory Committee

- The use of Division Advisory Committees (DAC’s) will facilitate a collaborative decision-making process that supports interoperability efforts to improve communication, coordination, and cooperation across disciplines and jurisdictions.

- This will promote the efficient use of public resources to ensure that essential public safety personnel have effective communications.

- This will assist the planning, building, implementing and maintaining radio access networks and their application in public safety, public health, and public works.
DAC Development

• Establish Divisional Advisory Committees (DAC’s) based on Stakeholder Groups within the 7 Geographical Divisions of the state.
• DAC’s should appoint a Chair & Vice Chair.
• DAC’s should meet once per quarter and no less than 30 days prior to a scheduled AFRWC meeting.
  – DAC is required to hold at least two face to face meetings annually.
  – Additional DAC meetings could be held by video and/or teleconference.
  – DAC meeting minutes should be documented and made available to all members of the DAC & AFRWC.
Statewide Governance Structure
Divisional Advisory Committee (DAC)

DIVISION STAKEHolders
- EMA
- Sherriff
- Police Chief
- Private EMS
- Public EMS
- Public Health
- 911 Representative
- Volunteer Fire
- Fire Chief
- Rescue Squad
- County Elected Official
- Local Elected Official
- DPS Division Commander
- Utilities Representative
- Education Representative

DIVISIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Stakeholders

ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDER WIRELESS COMMISSION
- DAC Working Group
  - Division A, Chair/Rep
  - Division B, Chair/Rep
  - Division C, Chair/Rep
  - Division D, Chair/Rep
  - Division E, Chair/Rep
  - Division F, Chair/Rep
  - Division G, Chair/Rep

OBJECTIVE
- Collaborative Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications System
Current Issues

• Alabama does not have a unified communications system. This creates the inability for First Responders to communicate with each other on emergency scenes or during disasters.

• Alabama currently funds disparate communication systems for ADPS, AEMA, Alabama Forestry, AL DOT, ADOC, and other smaller agencies.

• None of the current systems are capable of serving our First Responder’s needs statewide.

• The state’s current communication systems are based on 40 year old technology. Coverage area for existing state owned systems is extremely bad and a liability.
  – This lack of coverage presents an ever growing safety issue for our responders.
Solution

• Move to a unified statewide communication platform.
• Use open standards (Project 25) to build a system that all first responder agencies/departments could utilize.
• Capitalize on existing taxpayer investments at the local level by partnering with those jurisdictions that have Project 25 systems.
• Upgrade state infrastructure by building towers, deploying microwave for backhaul connectivity, and laying fiber optic cable.
Project 25 Systems

• Project 25 (P25 or APCO-25) is a suite of standards for digital radio communications for use by public safety agencies to enable them to communicate with other agencies and mutual aid response teams in emergencies.
• In a nutshell, P-25 is meant to facilitate various vendor units operating on a specific vendor’s communications infrastructure.
• Vendors submit their equipment for testing and certification to the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program.
Motorola P-25 700MHz Coverage shown in Blue

Harris P-25 Coverage shown in Orange/Yellow
Overview of FirstNet and the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)

Cathy Dawson
Education and Outreach Project Manager
VISION
To provide emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed, wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety

THE LAW
2.22.12
FirstNet becomes Law PL 112-96

FUNDING
$7B
authorized to build the FirstNet Network. Funded by spectrum auctions through 2022. The first auction netted

$1.6B

GOVERNANCE
FirstNet Board of Directors’ 15 members have backgrounds in police, fire, sheriff, emergency medical, city government, and commercial telecommunications. Governor appoints 1 single Point of Contact and governing body to represent the state’s interests to FirstNet. 41 member Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) advises FirstNet on public safety intergovernmental matters.

20MHz of bandwidth has been dedicated to public safety in the prime 700MHz frequency range.
WHO WILL USE FIRSTNET

5.4 Million Potential FirstNet public safety users nationwide

Law Enforcement | Fire Services | Medical Services | Federal Gov’t | State Gov’t | Utilities

FirstNet must provide service in all 50 US states, 5 territories, and Washington, DC.

THE COVERAGE CHALLENGE

FirstNet coverage challenge: geography is divided into 5 categories. Dense urban, urban and suburban are where most people live, but make up only 5% of the US land mass.

5% | 68% | 27%

Dense Urban | Urban | Suburban
Rural | Wilderness
FIRSTNET NETWORK

To meet this challenge, FirstNet is considering a 3-in-1 network architecture using land-based cellular, satellite and deployable systems to provide coverage.

4G LTE is 10x faster than 3G wireless service

THE ROAD TO FIRSTNET

2014-2016
Business plan
Outreach and awareness
Collect local data and design network
Develop and award supplier RFP
Establish network core

2016+
Governor reviews design offer and opts in or out of FirstNet network deployment
Integrate Next Generation 9-1-1

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

To offer public safety grade services at a cost that’s competitive and compelling to users.

– FirstNet Tenet

2022
Last spectrum auction
Network substantially in operation
FirstNet Board

• Headed by a 15-member Board.
  – Multi-jurisdictional, Multi-discipline backgrounds, but mostly retired commercial wireless professionals.
• Holds the license to the entire 20 MHz of public safety broadband spectrum.
• The law requires FirstNet to consult with regional, state, tribal, and local jurisdictions on a number of different issues associated with the NPSBN design and build out.
FirstNet (cont.)

- FirstNet must develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the construction, operations, maintenance, and improvements of the NPSBN.
- When the RFP process is complete, FirstNet will notify the Governor of each state (or his/her designee) the details of the proposed plan for build out of the NPSBN in the state and funding levels for the state as determined by NTIA.
- No later than 90 days after being notified by FirstNet, each Governor must choose whether his/her state will participate in the deployment of the NPSBN as proposed by FirstNet or conduct its own deployment of the radio access network (RAN) in the state.
  - This is referred to as the Governor’s “Opt-In” or “Opt-Out” decision.
What about voice?

• The NPSBN, will not satisfy our ever growing need for public safety wireless voice interoperable communications.

• The future goal for broadband networks is to satisfy both data and voice needs. However, this technology is still many years away from development.
  
  – Keep in mind, commercial VoIP is not public safety grade communications.

• Our efforts to establish a Unified Project 25 communication system must continue.
Outreach

Follow us via social media:
Facebook
Twitter
Questions?