Creating America’s Public Safety Broadband Network

6/11 Terrorist Attacks
Six thousand people were killed or injured by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Many of the first responders who were called to the scene needed to communicate with each other and had to coordinate their efforts. The Department of Homeland Security worked with Congress to identify gaps in emergency communications.

Congress Creates the First Responder Network Authority
At the request of the President, Congress created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to identify telecommunications services, technologies and applications needed to support public safety.

AT&T Answers Public Safety’s Call
AT&T has been the winner of the FirstNet RFP to build, operate, and maintain the FirstNet network. AT&T is building a nationwide public safety broadband network that will provide public safety agencies with voice and data transmissions.

Public Safety’s Network Comes to Life
The FCC allocated 20 megahertz of spectrum and $7 billion (in funds raised through spectrum auction) to establish a FirstNet Authority since its inception to ensure the FirstNet network will support mission critical communications.

In 2016, FirstNet went live. In the first year, public safety requested 200,000 connections.

Natural Disasters in the Midst of a Pandemic
In response to the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, AT&T rapidly increased FirstNet’s coverage and capacity to ensure public safety personnel have access to the broadband network they need to respond to potential increased levels of emergency traffic.

Coronavirus: Exactly Why Public Safety Has FirstNet
Surge in communications usage, with over 2 billion minutes of voice calls and 700 million data messages in March 2020.

Driving an Ecosystem of Innovation
By public request, AT&T has opened FirstNet to other service providers to gain access to spectrum and build more broadband capacity into the network.

Connecting Rural and Remote Areas of America
By 2021, FirstNet was offering service to 8,000 National Park and Forest Service sites and extended coverage to 15,000 remote public safety agencies and first responders across the country.

FirstNet Takes to the Skies
In March 2020, FirstNet launched a fleet of 16 next-generation mobile command centers to provide mission critical communications.

Connecting Our Frontline First Responders
The FirstNet Authority works closely with emergency management officials to ensure the broadband network is supporting their needs.

Supporting First Responders at America’s Capital
FirstNet’s dedicated FirstNet Fleet of Response Operations Group (ROG) public safety now has access to 5G connectivity, with more areas of America—have subscribed to FirstNet.

FirstNet is helping America’s first responders and medical professionals– resulting in a growth of FirstNet subscribers on the frontlines – in the fight against the pandemic. FirstNet has enabled public safety to do their jobs while keeping face to face contact to a minimum.

Bringing a One-of-a-Kind 5G experience to First Responders
FirstNet’s 5G network is currently being deployed and is exclusively for First Responders. The FirstNet network core is made up of leading public safety agencies, legacy FirstNet RFP bidders, and first responder organizations.

The impacts of FirstNet have been real, tangible and, at times, lifesaving. We believe FirstNet is the most important wireless network in the nation because it is the only fully mission critical broadband network designed, built, and operated by AT&T for public safety.

Building a Network with First Responders
Public safety personnel, through the FirstNet Authority, worked closely with AT&T during the initial planning stages of the network. Public safety officials worked closely with the FirstNet Authority to ensure the network would support their needs.

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FIRSTNET TIMELINE

- January 2016 – after forming the public-private partnership, a custom RFP was issued.
- January 2016 – every state and territory opted-in, meaning they said “Yes” to enabling FirstNet to be deployed as a single, interoperable nationwide network.
- January 2016 – after an open and competitive bidding process, AT&T was selected as the sole provider of FirstNet.
- March 2020 – FirstNet launched a fleet of 16 next-generation mobile command centers to provide mission critical communications.
- January 2021 – more areas of America—have subscribed to FirstNet.
- January 2021 – supporting public safety personnel across the nation.
- January 2021 – FirstNet is helping America’s first responders and medical professionals– resulting in a growth of FirstNet subscribers on the frontlines – in the fight against the pandemic.

A Network Built for Tomorrow
This comprehensive broadband network allows public safety to work across disciplines, across locations, and across jurisdictions. It also provides a framework for emergency management, first responders, and others involved in national security to communicate and collaborate during catastrophic events.

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