



NPSTC

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

Celebrating
10
YEARS
1997-2007

Ten Years of Progress | 1997-2007

Border Issues for U.S. Public Safety

Ralph A. Haller
NPSTC Vice Chair
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NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

- National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
 - 14 member Public Safety organizations
 - Federal participation – FCC, NTIA, DHS
 - Analyzes needs of Public Safety community
 - Represents Public Safety to federal agencies
 - Develops standards
 - Common nomenclature for interoperability

General Propositions

- Radio communications are essential for successful Public Safety operations
- Interoperability is vital
 - Between agencies
 - Across borders
- Interference poses a significant threat to successful communications and to the safety of life of public safety responders

Border Goals

- Borders should be transparent for public safety operations
- Interference must be eliminated quickly
- Note: Canada and Mexico present different challenges

Major PS Bands

- 150 – 174 MHz
- 450 – 470 MHz
- 470 – 512 MHz
- 700 MHz
- 800 MHz (including NPSPAC)
- 4.9 GHz wideband

- NPSTC supports the HLCC and its Directory of Bilateral Issues for 2007-2009
 - Protocols for VHF/UHF spectrum use
 - Reconfiguration of 800 MHz band
 - 700 MHz compatibility
 - Interference resolution procedures
- NPSTC supports the cross-border microwave network solution for PS interoperability

Mexico, cont.

- Further issues for consideration
 - 4.9 GHz
 - TV channel 15 vacated in Mexico and should be considered for Public Safety use
 - Adoption of common nomenclature for public safety communications across the border

Canada

- 700/800 MHz progressing
- Above 30 MHz Agreement needs revision
 - Too many US applications being denied
 - No common interference standards
- No protocol for interference resolution
- No 4.9 GHz agreement
- NPSTC working directly with sister PS organization in Canada on common issues (under guidance of DOS and FCC)

Conclusion

- Resolution of border issues is essential for national security
 - Seamless interoperability across borders
 - Several additional bilateral agreements to share or coordinate use of spectrum are needed
 - In the new agreements spectrum should be distributed equitably and procedures for coordination streamlined
 - Interference resolution procedures similar to those used with Mexico are needed for Canada