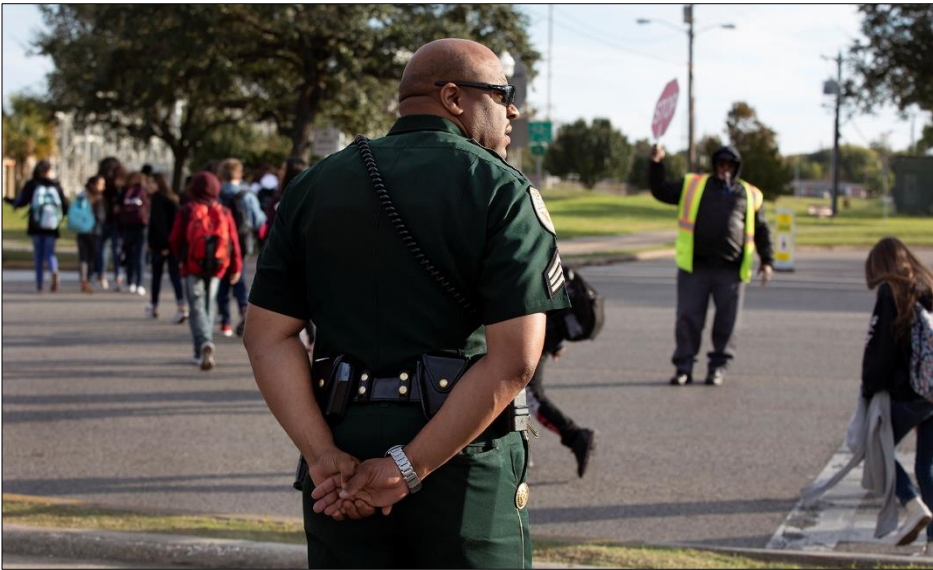


Newsletter

January 2019

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Texas City ISD: A case for student safety



First in a three-part series on Texas City Independent School District

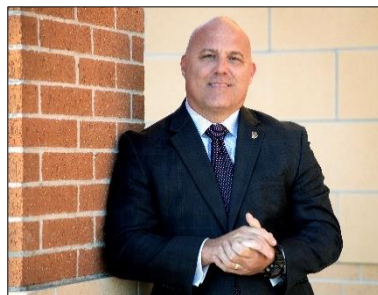
One of the factors Texas City Independent School District considered when enhancing its security and safety plan was data about school shootings across the country. To provide a more secure environment for its students, the Texas Gulf Coast school district adopted FirstNet. Hear what school officials have to say about the role of FirstNet in student safety. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

When it comes to security, communication is top priority

By Mike Matranga

Executive Director of Security
and Safety for Texas City ISD

Communication is the absolute number one priority when it comes to security for us in the K-12 market. You can have the best training in the world, you can be the best tactical operator, you can be the best shot, you can be in the best shape, but none of that matters if you cannot effectively communicate with others for reinforcements. And that's why we chose FirstNet for the Texas City ISD. FirstNet gets it.



(Continued on Page 3)

FirstNet grows by 50,000 square miles of LTE coverage

Band 14 spectrum deployed in more than 500 rural and urban markets across U.S.

FirstNet and AT&T subscribers got a big boost in wireless connectivity last year as we increased the LTE coverage area for FirstNet and AT&T network by more than 50,000 square miles nationwide, covering an additional 1 million individuals.

Need a reference mark for the square miles? That's bigger than the state of Louisiana.

The added LTE coverage is a result of ongoing network build initiatives to expand and enhance connectivity for FirstNet users and consumers in both urban and rural areas.

We've also deployed Band 14 spectrum in over 500 markets. This increases the coverage and capacity across the country. And it's a major plus for the more than 5,250 public safety agencies using 425,000+ connections on FirstNet today. It's also more than a 60% increase in the number of connections since the end of October 2018.

"We're moving fast to bring the unique features and benefits of FirstNet to life," said Chris Sambar,

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OTHER NEWS



FirstNet earns Popular Science "Best of What's New" Award

FirstNet, Built with AT&T, made the Popular Science list of "Best of What's New in 2018." The annual list calls out the "most pivotal, influential, and just plain awesome innovations." It includes some of the newest technologies and discoveries across 10 disciplines that have the potential to "make a real and lasting impact."

FirstNet is among the security innovations recognized. Other innovations can "down malicious drones without risking collateral damage, help military vehicles transverse tough terrain... and prevent porch pirates from nabbing our packages." [Check it out.](#)



In your Words

We asked our users to describe FirstNet in one word - what it means to them personally, and how it's working so far. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

New features for FirstNet users

Real Time Text launched Jan. 4, 2019, on the Samsung Galaxy A6 and LG Stylo 4+. Real Time Text is a TeleTypeWriter alternative for hearing- or speech-impaired customers that sends text as it is typed.

It is useful for making both every day and emergency calls. You start a text conversation like a voice call, but it is different from instant messaging and SMS. Both parties see text characters

appear on their devices as they are typed.

Wi-Fi and Video Calling launched Jan. 4, 2019, on the Samsung Galaxy A6.

Wi-Fi and Video Calling allow first responders on FirstNet first access to the FirstNet packet core in the event the LTE Radio Access Network is not accessible and public Wi-Fi® access is accessible.

New Year – New Tools

50% OFF our most popular smartphones with a 2yr FirstNet Mobile agreement*

*Ltd. time offer. Avail. only to FirstNet public safety entities for the Agency Paid User lines of service. Discount off of undiscounted price for each device. Full discounted price due at purchase. Requires qualified purchase with eligible FirstNet plan (min \$39/mo on FirstNet Mobile-Pooled or -Unlimited plan). Activ. & other fees, taxes, charges & restr's apply. [See offer details.](#)

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When it comes to security, communication is top priority

(Continued from Page 1)

Giving back

I grew up on the Gulf Coast near Texas City – graduated from La Marque High School in 1995. And I'm a firm believer in following your heart. I always wanted to give something back to the community that's given me so much.

So, after the Santa Fe, Texas school shooting, I did a self-evaluation of where I wanted to be – what I needed to do. And when this opportunity came up in Texas City to help protect our kids and our staff, I knew that's where I needed to go.

Our administrative staff and our law enforcement officers need peace of mind, so they can focus on the important things. They need to feel protected. And I want them to have the same peace of mind that I experienced in my career with the United States Secret Service. So, I asked myself, "How do I provide that same level of protection?"

FirstNet was the obvious choice. I thought it was a fantastic tool to provide to our district. It provides the reliable communications we need to stay connected to first responders and each other. And it's critical in a crisis like they had in Santa Fe – when the lines are overwhelmed.

Peace of mind

When you look at the challenges we face as a school district, everybody thinks about active shooters. And mass shootings are a tremendous threat to our schools and to our society.

But we live on the Texas Gulf Coast. And there are many other factors – and potential threats – that we should consider. These include industrial accidents – because we have a huge industrial complex here in the city of Texas City – hurricanes and other natural disasters.

In any of those three events, we need clear, protected and reliable communications. And FirstNet



Our administrative staff and our law enforcement officers need peace of mind, so they can focus on the important things, says Matranga

provided that for us. It's the whole package. I had two big challenges since coming to Texas City. The first was to make sure we have reliable communication we can count on to communicate internally and with first responders. And the second was to ensure our staff understood what situational awareness means. The FirstNet tools and applications took care of the first one. And we're working on the second one.

I want our staff to know what situational awareness looks like in their environment – on their campus. I want there to be a complete culture shift. For example, we can't just assume that a door is going to close behind us when we walk in. Sometimes they don't.

So, we need to make sure we have that culture shift. So that when they come through that door, if they don't hear it click and lock, then they turn around and they make sure that it's closed.

Finding the right solution

Kids these days face new challenges and what may look like a behavioral issue may be something else. So, the biggest challenge for us has been to decide what works in a school setting. What works in corporate America may not work for us. Security is not a one-

size-fits all solution. In a school environment, the teacher and school liaison officer work very closely.

They have the same mission and the same goal – and that's to protect the students and the staff. So, they need a tool that helps them do that. And that's FirstNet.

My children attend Texas City ISD. Having FirstNet gives me peace of mind. I know that whatever crisis comes our way, our administrators and our school liaison officer will have the tools they need to complete the task – a proven tool that is on a designated network for first responders.

With FirstNet, I'm confident that we will have the reliable communications we need to succeed here at Texas City ISD.

Michael Matranga is Executive Director of Security and Safety for the Texas City Independent School District. He served as a special agent with the United States Secret Service from 2004 to 2016. He has traveled to 27 countries, including two war zones, Iraq and Afghanistan. And he has done advance work on the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

That requirement is part of the contract with the First Responder Network



Jeffrey
Carl

"It may sound like a cliché, but it's more of a mission than a job for me."

Another project is simplifying the process that allows agencies in remote locations to purchase their own deployables, he says. While FirstNet has 72 dedicated deployables, some

(Continued on Next Page)

**FirstNet plan +
FirstNet Ready™
device +
FirstNet SIM =
Checking all
these boxes!**



FirstNet is a mission for engineering and technology director

(Continued from Page 3)

how far it has come over the years, Carl says, is one of his favorite aspects of the job. Especially since law enforcement and other first responders – the very people who need the best technology – often have not had access to it.

“My grandfather was a West Virginia state trooper in the years after World War II,” says Carl. He was often the only trooper in the entire county. And with no radio system, he stopped at pay phones periodically to get his orders from the dispatcher.

“He stopped at one of these payphones once to call my grandmother to check in, and my grandmother was very nervous, hemming and hawing about telling him something. At that point, the phone operator – who had of course been listening in the whole time – came on the line and said, ‘Ilene, just TELL him you’re pregnant!’ ”

“That was less than a lifetime ago,” says Carl, who lives with his wife and daughter in the Seattle, Wash., area. “But it shows how far we’ve come. And it’s great to see where we are now with available encrypted wireless broadband solutions covering more than 99 percent of the population.”

Built for public safety

Carl says a common question from potential FirstNet users is whether being on FirstNet is a requirement. “They ask, ‘What if I don’t like your coverage map; your network? Do I have to get on FirstNet?’ And my answer is no,” he says. “We have to compete and win your business every single time.

“This is not a ‘build it for consumers and if it works for public safety, that’s great,’ network,” he says. “This is being built to specifically meet the needs of public safety, with

contractually-mandated public safety deliverables.”

This includes, in addition to dedicated deployables:

- A dedicated public safety core that routes FirstNet traffic
- The ability for first responders to uplift those who support them, as necessary
- A dedicated public safety application store with tested, public-safety relevant, highly secure and interoperable applications
- And a dedicated security operations center staffed with cybersecurity professionals exclusively focused on public safety – 24/7/365 – to monitor the network

That’s what sets FirstNet apart from the rest, Carl says. “It’s different – not like anything that’s out there right now.”

Join FirstNet!

Get a **\$200 credit** when you purchase a new smartphone line on AT&T NEXT[®] with an eligible FirstNet Mobile plan.*

*Ltd time. Not avail. in Massachusetts. Select locations only. Avail. only to elig. employees and volunteers of qualified Primary User Public Safety Entities who activate as a new Subscriber Paid User. Must activate new smartphone line w/ elig. voice & data svc (min. \$28.50/mo. on FirstNet Mobile – Responder Plan for smartphone. Other qual. plans avail.). Credit w/in 3 bills. Up to \$30 activation, add’l fees, taxes & other charges, limits & restr’s apply. See offer details below.

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Eligibility: Avail. only to (a) current employees of qual. Primary User Public Safety Entities, and (b) active, auxiliary personnel who are affiliated with, and provide services or perform functions on an occasional volunteer basis in the areas of law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, or emergency planning and management for, qual. Primary User Public Safety Entities. Each elig. individual must (a) be verified by his/her qual. Primary User Public Safety Entity before activation, or, if activating without prior verification by his/her qual. Primary User Public Safety Entity, by AT&T or its agent following the individual’s successful completion of the eligibility verification process found at www.firstnet.com/verify within 30 days after activation, and (b) subscribe to svc under an AT&T Wireless Customer Agmt w/ an individual FirstNet acct for which the elig. individual is personally liable (collectively, “Subscriber Paid Users”). Subscriber Paid Users will be subj. to periodic eligibility re-verification. **If it is determined that you are not a valid Subscriber Paid User or that you have more than one FirstNet Mobile plan/line of svc, AT&T reserves the right to, in its sole discretion, (a) suspend your FirstNet Mobile line(s) of svc, during which time you will remain liable for the monthly charges for your suspended FirstNet Mobile plan(s); (b) change your FirstNet Mobile plan(s) to an AT&T consumer plan and bill you the appropriate monthly charges; and/or (c) terminate your FirstNet Mobile line(s) of svc (which will result in the full outstanding balance on your installment agmt, if any, becoming immediately due).** AT&T will provide notice of the action it intends to take. **Elig. devices:** All compatible smartphones. Req’s new smartphone on 0% APR AT&T Next (30-mo. at up to \$48.34/mo.) or AT&T Next Every Year (24-mo. at up to \$60.42 /mo.) \$0 down for well-qual. credit or down payment may be req’d. Retail price is divided into monthly installments. **Tax on full retail price due at sale.** See att.com/Next and your Retail Installment Agmt for more details. **Req’d Wireless: New Subscriber Paid Users/new lines only; excludes migrations from AT&T, Cricket, and AT&T Prepaid.** Not an upgrade offer. Req’s smartphone line w/postpaid wireless voice & data svc (min. \$28.50/mo. on FirstNet Mobile – Responder Plan for smartphone. Other qual. plans avail.) **If you cancel wireless svc, will owe device balance of up to \$ 1,449.99. Activation Fee:** up to \$45. **Return:** Return w/in 14 days. Restocking fee up to \$30 may apply. **\$200 Bill Credit:** Credit w/in 3 bills. To get credit, you must be qualified Subscriber Paid User, wireless line must be active with elig. svc & account must be in good standing for 30 days. **Limits:** One credit per qual. Subscriber Paid User. Offer may not be combinable w/other offers, discounts or credits. Participation in this offer may make your wireless account ineligible for select other offers for a 12-month period.

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FirstNet grows by 50,000 square miles of LTE coverage

(Continued from Page 1)

senior vice president, FirstNet Program at AT&T. “We’re less than a year into the Band 14 build and months ahead of schedule. And we already cover more than 40% of our total FirstNet Band 14 rural and non-rural coverage targets. That’s about a 10% jump in the FirstNet square miles covered since last October.

“Witnessing the real, tangible and – at times – life-saving impacts that FirstNet had in 2018 fuels us to keep moving quickly to blanket the country with reliable connectivity. And we’re set for the explosive growth ahead,” Sambar said.

As we build out FirstNet for you, we have 3 areas of focus:

- **Connecting rural and remote responders.** FirstNet is your network. So, reaching rural and remote parts of America is one of our top priorities. Areas that are underway and currently benefitting from the FirstNet build include the Black Hills of South Dakota, where nearly half a million people gather for the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally; the farming communities of Tulare County, Calif.; and tribal lands within the Chickasaw Nation in south-central Oklahoma.
- **Increasing capacity for urban responders.** In areas where coverage already exists, we’re helping you get the capacity you need to get the job done. That’s why urban and suburban centers in markets like Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Phoenix, San

“We’re moving fast to bring the unique features and benefits of FirstNet to life.”

Chris Sambar,
Senior Vice President
– FirstNet Program at AT&T

Diego, San Francisco and more got a Band 14 boost.

- **Keeping public safety connected with innovative solutions.** We offer innovative solutions to help you communicate no matter where your mission takes you. This includes the nationwide fleet of 72 FirstNet dedicated deployable assets – available 24/7 upon request and at no additional charge. FirstNet users can also purchase their own deployable network assets from our First Responders Mobility Zone program. Or they can get a Rapid Deployment Kit, which is a portable briefcase that allows first responders to quickly establish connectivity where they need it.

Learn more about the value FirstNet is bringing to public safety on [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com).