



Testimony

**Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
Committee**

**House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
Committee**

Senate Communications and Technology Committee

Hearing on FirstNet

October 19, 2017

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Chairman Vulakovich, Chairman Barrar, Chairman Aument, Chairman Costa, Chairman Sainato, Chairman Haywood, and Members of the Committees, I am John MacMillan, Deputy Secretary for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Commonwealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to discuss the role that the Governor's Office of Administration (OA) plays with respect to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).

I was appointed Deputy Secretary in March 2015. Personally, I have over 31 years of experience in the information technology (IT) industry. I developed applications at the federal level for over eleven years. For almost 19 years, I worked for one of the world's leading IT companies. I had the opportunity to assist customers in New York and Washington with application development initiatives in property management and social services. In Texas, Washington, Pennsylvania and Ohio, projects related to data center consolidation, operations and standardization achieved operational effectiveness and saved millions.

One of the most important high-level initiatives that OA leads is the development of the Enterprise IT Strategic Plan. One of the goals in the plan is to "Foster Collaboration, Communication, and Governance." Our success across the commonwealth enterprise relies on all agencies working together.

An example of working together is the roles that Major Stackhouse and I play as co-chairs of the Public Safety Communication Council. Two of the goals for the Strategic Workgroup are to interconnect and interoperate existing networks to improve public safety operations and improve coverage. From the PSCC's perspective, FirstNet is another tool to accomplish our goals through network traffic priority and preemption protocols.

When agencies create their agency-specific IT plans, they are expected to align their plans to the enterprise plan to ensure that all agencies are moving in the same direction with regard future initiatives or investments. It was important to have our customers – the state agencies we support – at the table during the creation of this plan so we are all working toward the same goals and using similar strategies. The team developed a framework that enables agencies to integrate their initiatives with a shared set of enterprise goals and strategies.

With the new IT Shared Services transformation project, as of July 1, 2017, all agency IT staff now are under OA. The new model will have delivery centers which will build cross agency business solutions. With the Shared Services project, agency-specific programs such as PSP's STARNet and PEMA's Next Gen 9-1-1 remain with their agency. OA's IT staff will offer technical support, if needed, for such agency operations.

Next Generation 9-1-1 is an example of the modernization of an existing business solution that will drive the need for additional network bandwidth and security. Coupled with active procurements to modernize commonwealth telecommunications, we must seize the opportunity to own our network architecture and drive marketplace competition.

With respect to FirstNet, PSP is the lead commonwealth agency on the project and Major Stackhouse serves as Pennsylvania's Single Point of Contact for the FirstNet project. OA has collaborated with PSP and PEMA on the FirstNet project and will continue to do so. Specifically, Jim Weaver, OA's Chief Technology Officer, and two other OA staff members have been engaged in the matter. OA's role with FirstNet is at the strategic level. Similarly, OA participates on the Next Gen 9-1-1 advisory team in collaboration with PEMA. Our role is to ensure that, with respect to technology, we all are moving in the same direction with regards to interoperability, interconnectedness, utilization, and leveraging of state-owned assets. Again, our success across the commonwealth enterprise relies on all agencies working together.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before this Committee.

*** END OF TESTIMONY ***