



TJ Kennedy

Acting Executive Director

Acting FirstNet Executive Director TJ Kennedy is a seasoned executive with a unique blend of leadership, coalition building and technology expertise as well as hands-on experience in police, fire and emergency medical services. He began his career as a firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT), and then became a state trooper for the Utah Highway Patrol. He later became a paramedic in the fire department as well as a flight paramedic for Life Flight in Salt Lake City. He then joined the commercial business sector, where he advanced to senior-level positions that honed his management and executive leadership skills.

Known domestically and internationally for his expertise in critical infrastructure and large-scale public safety projects, he has focused on facilitating collaboration among local, state and federal authorities to deliver projects of national importance such as Public Safety for the Salt Lake Olympics as a dedicated team member of the Utah Olympic Public Safety Command.

At FirstNet, Mr. Kennedy is also responsible for user advocacy including stakeholder outreach, consultation, and state plans, as well as government affairs and communications. Prior to joining FirstNet, Mr. Kennedy was the Director, Public Safety and Security for Raytheon Company, where he was President of JPS Communications, a subsidiary focused on radio interoperability solutions.

Earlier, Mr. Kennedy was a Vice President at Science Applications International Corp (SAIC), a defense contracting company. At SAIC he led deployments of large integrated public safety programs including systems for the 2004 Olympic Games.

While working with the Utah Department of Public Safety, Mr. Kennedy served as a state trooper and was on the SWAT/Special Operations team. He was also a flight paramedic with Intermountain Life Flight in Salt Lake City and is a past president of the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics. Mr. Kennedy was a firefighter and a paramedic for Park City Fire District, and graduated from the University of Utah.



Dave Buchanan, Director of State Consultation

David Buchanan is the Director of State Consultation for the First Responder Network Authority. Dave is leading the team that is developing the FirstNet State Consultation program, which includes a variety of activities and deliverables for FirstNet and the 56 states and territories. State consultation is a statutory requirement under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the law that established FirstNet, to ensure that the needs of public safety across the diversity of agencies and areas of the country are met. Dave has worked with first responders since 1999, with previous jobs at NTIA Office of Public Safety Communications and the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). At COPS, Mr. Buchanan coordinated critical grant federal grant programs that assisted local law enforcement in a number of key areas, including hiring over 100,000 new law enforcement professionals nationwide, establishing school safety and school resource officer programs, combating gang violence and violent crime, and establishing interoperability and technology-related resources. Both previous positions involved extensive contact with public safety components and executives throughout the nation while managing federal budgets and programs.

Rich Reed, Director of State Plans

As Director of State Plans, Mr. Reed is responsible for leading the planning team that will provide support to the nation's 56 states and territorial governments. Mr. Reed served the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) as the branch chief for Technical Assistance. There, he managed the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) along with the Modeling, Analysis and Continuity (MAC) Section, overseeing more than 100 project leads, engineers, software developers, and subject matter experts providing "no cost" consultations and services to public safety agencies across the nation. Mr. Reed brings more than 25 years of senior-level experience in advanced communications, and has an extensive background in Land Mobile Radio (LMR) and Satellite Communications (SATCOM) installation, maintenance and repair. During his time on Navy active duty, Mr. Reed experienced a uniquely diverse career, serving both sea and shore rotations as a search and rescue swimmer, and traveling with the presidential and vice presidential advance teams of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA).



Amanda Hilliard, Director of Outreach

Amanda joined the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in January 2014 as its Director of Outreach. In this capacity, Amanda oversees FirstNet's education and outreach efforts with the public safety community across all levels of government. Prior to joining FirstNet, Amanda worked at the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) for 6 years, initially as a Senior Consultant with Touchstone Consulting Group and then a federal employee, leading public safety stakeholder engagement and outreach and statewide planning efforts. She most recently served as the OEC Partnerships Branch Chief, overseeing the Office's engagement with key stakeholder groups at all levels of government such as SAFECOM, the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, the Emergency Communications Preparedness Center, and the One DHS Emergency Communications Committee. While working for Touchstone, Amanda also provided support to the Metro-Boston Homeland Security Region in implementing their Five-Year Strategic Plan for Communications Interoperability and to the Office of Management and Budget's Office for E-Government and Information Technology in implementing its Government to Government portfolio initiatives.

Ed Parkinson, Director of Government Affairs

As the FirstNet Director of Government Affairs, Edward Parkinson is responsible for intergovernmental relations with local, state and federal organizations. Previously, Mr. Parkinson served for five years as a Professional Staff Member for the House Homeland Security Committee, then chaired by Rep. Peter T. King of New York. During this period, Mr. Parkinson's primary responsibility was in the field of first responder telecommunications. He also worked on issues including border security, emergency preparedness, cybersecurity and investigations into waste, fraud and abuse of government resources. Previously Mr. Parkinson served as an associate at Kearsage Global Advisors, an advocacy firm, and a research analyst at McKenna, Long and Aldridge, an international law firm specializing in public policy. Mr. Parkinson earned a BA and an Honors postgraduate degree in International Affairs from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2012 he completed a Masters degree in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University, with a focus on International Affairs.



Jeremy Zollo, Outreach

Jeremy brings over 19 years of public safety emergency communications experience and inter-agency coordination support. He spent the last 8 years as the Booz Allen Hamilton program manager for FEMA's Disaster Emergency Communications Division overseeing all regional and state outreach and planning activities.

Carl Rebstock, Outreach Division

Carl previously worked as a senior outreach and education program manager for Washington OneNet. Carl brings significant tribal experience – he was an Executive Committee member of the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council, a founding board member of the National Tribal Emergency Management Council, and participated last year in FirstNet's tribal strategic planning meeting.

Doug Harder, State Plans

Doug spent the last 10 years as a task lead and subject matter expert on the DHS/OEC Technical Assistance Program. Doug brings significant experience engaging with the states and territories to determine their requirements and develop plans to accomplish those needs.

Josh Ederheimer, Senior Law Enforcement Advisor

Josh is on detail from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office where he serves as Principal Deputy Director. He brings nearly 30 years of local and national law enforcement perspectives. Josh has been at DOJ for 4 years, and prior to that he served with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department for 22 years where he attained the rank of Assistant Chief. He also has served as the Director of the Police Executive Research Forum's Center on Force and Accountability.

Kevin Green, Attorney Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel

Kevin brings over 14 years of experience providing legal counsel on a wide array of issues. He previously worked as an attorney at the international law firm Arnold & Porter LLP, where his practice included advising clients on state and federal regulatory, legislative, and policy matters.

Alan Etter, Communications

Alan serves as communications contract support for FirstNet. Alan served for nearly a decade as the Chief Public Information Officer for the DC Fire & EMS Department. As main spokesperson for one of the nation's busiest first responder services, he developed relationships in public safety across the country. Before coming to FirstNet, Alan served as Vice President of the University of the District of Columbia, where he oversaw all outreach activities in support of the university's mission. Alan has a deep background in journalism as well, having worked for a decade as a news anchor and reporter for Washington's premiere news organization, WTOP News, where he continues to work as a fill in broadcast host today.