



November 15, 2010

InterAgency Board (IAB)  
Position Statement on the "D" Block Public Safety Spectrum

The state and local first responders of the InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) formally support the efforts of the Public Safety Alliance (<http://www.psafirst.org/>) to secure the allocation of the 700 MHz "D" Block spectrum for public safety use.

The InterAgency Board is a voluntary collaborative panel of emergency preparedness and response practitioners from a wide array of professional disciplines that represent all levels of government and the volunteer sector. The IAB provides a structured forum for the exchange of ideas among operational, technical, and support organizations to improve national preparedness and promote interoperability and compatibility among local, state, tribal and federal response communities. Based on direct field experience, IAB members advocate for and assist the development and implementation of performance criteria, standards, test protocols, and technical, operating, and training requirements for all-hazards incident response equipment with a special emphasis on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) issues.

The Interagency Board works hard everyday to promote interoperability across all fields within the first responder community; because of this the first responders of the IAB readily recognize that the allocation of the "D" block directly to public safety is an important national priority. First responders across this nation need a data network that has the ability to seamlessly roam across this great nation. The vision of a single interoperable national broadband public safety network is attainable within our lifetime if public safety is provided the appropriate resources. The key variable for this capability is the allocation of the "D" block. While the journey may be long, it begins with the establishment of a single national public safety broadband plan that all of public safety can build on, as resources become available. Public safety agencies need the 10MHz D block spectrum, in addition to the 10 MHz of broadband spectrum already allocated and licensed to public safety, to meet their critical requirements.

The first responders on the InterAgency Board commend the Public Safety Alliance for their leadership and efforts in securing the "D" Block for the first responder community.