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What experience do you have in public safety?

My public safety career began in 1989 as a young police officer with the small city of Euless, Texas. At the beginning of my police career, I worked as a patrol officer and bicycle officer and had training in special weapons and tactics and criminal investigations before leaving Euless to join the Dallas County District Attorney's Office as a criminal investigator. I worked with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, then the Collin County District Attorney's Office, retiring with over 15+ years in law enforcement and joining the business private sector. I now work as a full-time employee of the FirstNet Program at AT&T, but still maintain my active peace officer license with the State of Texas.

Can you describe how Band 14 on FirstNet works?

The best way to describe FirstNet Band 14 is priority and preemption for first responders, which includes police, fire, EMS and 9-1-1 dispatchers. The FirstNet network gives first responders the reliability they need for mission-critical voice and data without disruptions.

Additionally, FirstNet is available to those who support first responders. They can buy priority access and data prioritization features. Depending on the emergency, a first responder agency may uplift these users to a higher priority on FirstNet to help support the agency's emergency response. The individual agency will dictate how it provisions the priority of various users, depending on its needs. For example, those who support first responders may include school administration involved in emergency response and school resource officers, healthcare workers, city or county public works, tow truck companies, and more. Simply put, first responders have the highest priority on the FirstNet network.

Why is Band 14 important and why would this matter to first responders and leadership in the public safety community?

Only FirstNet users can obtain priority access, and for first responders, preemption capabilities on Band 14. Together with all AT&T commercial bands, Band 14 enables first responders to communicate day-to-day and in times of crisis. The always-on priority of FirstNet gives first responders the confidence of a reliable network and preemption gives first responders the VIP access to the network above the commercial network in times of congestion in a critical situation. If the network continues to become congested because of extreme commercial voice or data, commercial users can be moved or terminated to allow a FirstNet Band 14 device to continue to use the network when it is needed the most.

What do you think is the most valuable tool in a first responder's public safety communications toolbox?

First responders carry many tools with them to be able to do their jobs. Police officers carry both a lethal and a non-lethal weapon, handcuffs, a



hand-held land mobile radio, a smart device and a body-worn camera. Firefighters wear large bunker gear and a breathing apparatus to allow them to enter burning buildings. They carry flashlights, a hand-held radio, smart device, and some have body-worn cameras that can resist the heat and smoke. Emergency medical personnel have life-saving equipment to provide medical treatment, a hand-held radio, a smart device, and sometimes body-worn cameras.

One common theme for first responders are the smart wireless devices and land mobile radios. FirstNet – and the Band 14 spectrum – gives first responders the ability to communicate with their LMRs and smart devices over a dedicated broadband network when they need it. It gives them peace of mind knowing they have that reliability and will never have to compete with commercial traffic.

And Band 14 – together with all AT&T commercial bands – automatically allows first responders to use all of their broadband devices to transmit voice or data during regular work hours or in times of crisis. These are some of the benefits of the FirstNet network that no other wireless provider can provide.