APCO REPORTS

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Events and happenings related to APCO's 52nd Annual National Conference, held August 17-22 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, occupied most of the Association's attention at the end of August. In addition to welcoming a new National Board of Officers, APCO was busy preparing for the introduction of its new 80-hour Telecommunicator Training Course; reacting to notices from the Federal Communications Commission; and preparing for the expected chartering of a Canadian Chapter of APCO. All indications are that the recently completed National Conference, under the direction of Conference Chairman Bob Goldstein and his Conference Committee, was a success in every way, with the largest number of attendees and exhibits ever in APCO's history.

NASSER IS NEW PRESIDENT: Joseph Y. Nasser, Director of Emergency Management and Communications for Volusia County, Florida, was sworn in as the 53rd President of the APCO National Board of Officers during ceremonies at the closing banquet of the APCO National Conference. Nasser assumes the office of President from outgoing President Richard L. Miller from the city of Los Angeles.

The newest member of the National Board of Officers is Second Vice-President George Murray of the Georgia State Patrol, who was elected to that post by the APCO Conference Quorum. Advancing in the National Board of Officer positions were Alan Lannier of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. to the position of President-Elect, and Gary David Gray of Orange County, California, to the office of First Vice-President.

CANADIAN CHAPTER OKAYED: The APCO Constitution and Bylaws were amended by the APCO Conference Quorum to include the mechanism for establishing APCO Chapters in other countries, with a specific change made for the expected formation of a Chapter from Canada. The two resolutions pertaining to Chapters in other countries (Resolution Nos. 8 and 9), were passed by a wide margin by the voting Quorum. Guidelines for establishment of a Canadian Chapter as stated in the approved resolution include: "a group requesting Chapter Charter must submit a petition signed by 15 members-at-large whose dues are fully paid or whose dues payments accompany the petition. At least 11 of these must be employed in positions which would qualify them as Active members if they were citizens of the United States. The petition for Chapter Charter must be accompanied by a proposed Chapter Constitution & Bylaws consistent with the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. Any new chapters shall be divided into the same classes of members as specified by the APCO Constitution with respect to citizens of the United States."

According to the resolution amendment, members of a Canadian Chapter may enjoy the same voting privileges as the members of the same classifications enjoy in

other Chapters of the Association, except that they shall not be entitled to vote with respect to any petition, comment or other pleading which the Association may submit to any governmental entity or agency in the United States, and they shall not appear as a representative of the Association in any matter before any governmental entity in the United States.

NEW COMMITTEES FORMED: The voting Quorum at the APCO National Conference also gave approval to the formation of a number of new national standing committees. Those new committees are: Telecommunications Automation Committee; Voice and Data Network Committee; Incident Management Committee; Activities and Membership Standing Committee; Resolutions and Bylaws Standing Committee, and Strategic Planning Standing Committee.

There were three proposed resolutions put before the Conference Quorum which were defeated, and they were: Resolution Number 1, which would have provided an Oversight Committee representative of the frequency coordination body of the Association; Resolution No. 2, which was to have the National Board of officers initiate a request for rulemaking to establish an intersystem channel in the recently allocated 800 MHz reserve spectrum; and Resolution No. 4, which would have added a member to the Commercial Advisory Committee to the National Executive Committee.

TELECOMMUNICATOR TRAINING PROGRAM: During the APCO National Conference, APCO President Joseph Nasser made a presentation concerning the soon to be ready APCO National 80-hour Telecommunicator Training Course. The course, which will be available November 1 of this year, consists of 16 units of instruction to be used as a training tool for public safety communications telecommunicators, dispatchers and call-takers.

With respect to the APCO Telecommunicator Training Programs, the new National Board of Officers approved the following decisions and policies be adopted:

(a) No one solely involved in training on a commercial basis will be allowed access to the Programs.

(b) In addition to APCO Chapters, the course manual will be sold only to public safety entities, public safety training centers, and accredited educational institutions.

(c) The price of the course manual will be $500 to APCO Chapters, and $750 to other eligible buyers.

(d) The APCO Chapter in the area where a course is sold to others will receive 10% of the revenue received by the National Office.

(e) APCO Chapters will be given two options for paying the $500 for the course manual: (i) purchase the course outright; or (ii) take the course on credit and pay for it out of the 10% rebate the Chapter will receive for the sale of the course to others in its territory.

(f) Post-course reporting, including a roster of attendees, will be required. The National Office will send a list of the attendees to the Chapter in the area where the course was given, for membership solicitation purposes. The National Office will also send a membership kit to the individuals taking the course.

(g) The Executive Director is to encourage every Chapter to get the course formally approved by its State Standards Training Councils. The Chapters are to approach the Councils and the Councils are to ask the National Office for an evaluation copy, on the letterhead of the Council.

(h) Unit quizzes, final quizzes and course notebooks will be prepared and sold by the National Office. The National Office will establish the prices for these materials, with a sliding scale for volume purchases.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: It is the goal of every APCO National Conference Committee to see that the biggest and best conference is presented, and this year's Milwaukee Committee has lived up to that standard, as nearly 3,000 people participated in the conference held at the Milwaukee Exposition Center and Convention Arena (MECCA) and the Milwaukee Hyatt Regency hotel.. There were 243 exhibit booths staffed by 160 companies, an all-time high for the Association; dozens of workshops, seminars, and presentations made by representatives of Federal, state and local governmental bodies and the commercial sector; a keynote address by Robert S. Foosaner, Chief of the FCC Private Radio Bureau; two National Executive Committee meetings and two meetings of the National Board of Officers; the selection of Sparks, Nevada as the site of the 1989 APCO National Conference to be hosted by APCO's Northern California Chapter; and a highly successful and praised MANAPCO Night at the world-famous Milwaukee Zoo.

APCO's Frequency Coordinators were kept busy with two full-days of workshops on Thursday and Friday. In relation to the Association's Automated Frequency Coordination System, the Board of Officers took steps which were to lead to the expected signing of a contract with C.E.T. of Denver, Colorado to supply APCO with services needed to put the Association's automated system into operation by October 22, the deadline set by the FCC.

A full report on the 52nd Annual National Conference will be featured in the September/October issue of the APCO BULLETIN. That issue will also carry news of progress made on APCO's 53rd Annual National Conference, set for August 23-27, 1987 in Baltimore, Maryland, to be hosted by the Mid-Eastern Chapter of APCO. Already, more than 190 exhibit booths have been reserved for the 1987 National Conference. The previous record for advance sales of exhibit booths was in San Diego in 1985 when 113 booths were booked by providers of Public Safety communications equipment and services.

UHF TV SHARING: APCO, as a member of the Land Mobile Communications Council, joined in a set of "reply" comments filed with the FCC by LMCC on August 29.

LMCC concluded that none of the other parties which have taken part in this FCC proceeding (Docket 85-172) have effectively demonstrated that the Commission should not proceed with its planned geographic sharing of UHF television spectrum by land mobile radio licensees in the eight major metropolitan areas as the Commission has proposed.

The Council maintained that the material it has furnished the Commission effectively demonstrates "that there will be no harmful interference to UHF television operations by additional land mobile sharing."

AUTOMATIC TRANSMITTER IDENTIFICATION: During the APCO Annual Conference in Milwaukee, the FCC in Washington released a new "notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of inquiry" in Gen. Docket No. 86-337, in which it seeks "to establish a means by which

all radio emissions might be encoded with a distinct automatically transmitted identifier. For video satellite uplink stations regulated under Part 25," the Commission said, "we are proposing rules. For all other services we seek comments on how to proceed."

In the NPRM/NOI, the FCC proposed as benefits of an automatic transmitter identification system (ATIS): Frequency coordinators could utilize ATIS to assist in determining usuage, propagation range, unauthorized users, and resolving interference problems and more. ATIS could provide the ability to develop automated monitoring systems that could capture the information instead of using present labor intensive collection methods. With Commission reliance increasingly placed on coordinators, they could develop enhanced capability through ATIS.

When all systems are automatically identified, it may be possible to relax some present regulatory cautions, for example, new technologies such as spread spectrum devices, voice privacy, and other digital techniques. Synthesized multi-channel transceivers make it so easy to select a new frequency that some owners of the equipment are tempted to and do, operate on unauthorized channels to the detriment of others. If synthesized transceivers were equipped with ATIS, the operator would have an incentive not to misuse the built-in channel flexibility since his identity would immediately be known. The utilization of ATIS may help with resolving problems that have arisen with multi-channel synthesized equipment. Similarly, it will speed decisions on requests for new emissions and technical advances since any resulting interference will always be immediately traceable to the transmission source.

The Commission also invited comments based on the following questions concerning the costs and benefits of such a system:

(a) In what services would ATIS be beneficial? Should it be imposed on all services?

(b) Could ATIS be mandatory in some services and voluntary in others? For example, ATIS may be valuable in the Marine and Aviation services but unnecessary or impractical in the various Industrial Radio Services.

(c) Would it be feasible to permit stations to ignore normal call sign requirements if those stations employed ATIS? Would this work in some services, such as Broadcast Auxiliary but not others? Would this be confusing or would it provide sufficient incentive for all stations to eventually install ATIS?

Also, the NPRM/NOI posed these questions concerning ATIS:

(a) How much would the retail cost of transmitting equipment increase if all transmitters included an ATIS based on the standards described in the Appendix? How would these cost increases be affected by differences in equipment volume? What would be the expected cost of changing an ATIS code in cases where equipment changed hands?

(b) What is the percentage of transmitters which are now utilizing a form of ATIS (e.g., digital squelch)? What are the future trends?

(c) How effective would an ATIS be in resolving interference other than co-channel (e.g., that due to intermodulation, spurious emissions or audio rectification)? What supplemental uses would ATIS have beyond inter-

ference resolution?

(d) To what degree would the existence of a mandatory ATIS standard based on the present array of communications services impede or accelerate the development and implementation of new communications technologies?

(e) In the frequency bands allocated to the safety services and on channels shared by many licensees, what percentage of traffic is currently disrupted due to interference which may be reduced or eliminated under an ATIS program?

(f) What savings occur in service, maintenance and coordination time in identifying sources and more efficiently disposing of a multitude of spectrum management related problems in contrast with present day methods and by the year 2000 and beyond?

If an operational ATIS system was to be adopted, the use of industry standard codes and circuits would be encouraged by the FCC. The commission believes that it may be beneficial for one or more industry groups to study, make recommendations and outline a preferred ATIS method. Comments and supporting data are requested on these points:

(a) When should identification be transmitted? Would identification at the beginning and end of each transmission and every 10 minutes if prolonged be satisfactory?

(b) Should the signal be capable of being easily recognized and decoded by the FCC and other interested parties?

(c) Should the identification code be unique and have linkage to identify the station? What database could serve as linkage? We have suggested the possibility of utilizing an unregistered, but unique code set by the manufacturer, plus the coded station call sign set by the user or service company.

(d) Should the code be tamper proof from the station operator? How could it be made tamper proof?

(e) Would ATIS be practical for a service such as amateur where there is no equipment authorization requirement or the equipment may even be homemade.

(f) How should the code be structured to minimally impact ongoing transmissions?

(g) Should a single standard code be selected? Should provisions for unique situations be provided?

(h) What type of ATIS system should be employed with specifics on code, keying rate, modulation method, error checking, etc?

(i) Should a prototype system be tested prior to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking? How should testing, if needed, be arranged?

(j) What time schedule should be used for implementation? Should equipment be grandfathered? How should used equipment be regulated? Would the

following schedule be realistic?

1) Parts 81, 83, 89, 90 and 95 -- no later than January 1, 1988, for transmitting equipment manufactured after that date, and January 1, 1993, for all transmitting equipment.

2) Parts 15 (Low Power Communication Devices Only), 21, 22, 25 (including video satellite uplinks with ATIS internal to the transmitter), 74, 94 and 97 -- subject to this inquiry but no later than January 1, 1993, for new transmitters and January 1, 1998, for all transmitting equipment.

3) All other radio services not yet within the ATIS requirements (Parts 15, 18 and 73) -- no later than January 1, 2000, for all new equipment.

APCO PRAISED IN NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM REPORT: In a recently issued report by the Committee on National Security Telecommunications Policy Planning Environment to the National Communications System (NCS), APCO received some well-deserved praise for its role in promoting effective communications between cities, states and Federal agencies.

The report, titled "The Policy Planning Environment for National Security Telecommunications," is the end result of nearly two years of work examining issues of concern in the area of interoperability between state, local and Federal governmental bodies. In the report, APCO is termed a "valuable resource" with an "excellent reputation based on 50 years of public service."

Here is a section of the report which deals with the relationship of APCO, FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other groups concerned with promoting effective communications.

Expanded Scope for FEMA

"For the NCS to obtain coordination and integration of its NSEP planning with state and local jurisdictions it must assign responsibility for this activity to one of its participating members. A management axiom states that if a problem is the responsibility of everyone, it becomes the responsibility for no one. The Committee recommends that the OMNCS and FEMA take action to have FEMA, which is already significantly involved in state and local affairs, be officially charged with this responsibility of achieving state and local coordination with the NSEP telecommunications program. The mandate for this activity must be spelled out as a set of initiatives in the same way that initiatives were enunciated for using NSTAC as an NSEP telecommunications resource. These initiatives, or responsibilities, would include:

Joint planning for NSEP purposes. Lay out the main course to be followed. Describe in general terms the kinds of working relationships required among the various organizations and between them and FEMA and the NCS;

An education program for state and local organizations regarding NSEP requirements;

A liaison point in each organization;

Training for emergency operations;

Procedures to be followed in emergency situations; and

Working at the policy level only, but covering all issues necessary to the development of practical solutions at the detail level.

Achieving State and Local Coordination with Federal Agencies

"There is no need to develop or invent new organizations to achieve the state and local integration desired by the NCS. Based on data presented, the Committee is convinced that well established and significant organizations are already in place to achieve the desired coordination. The principal ones already in existence are the National Governors Association, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc., (APCO), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and volunteer radio organizations comprising the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). The objectives of each of these organizations relate to coordination among their constituents for emergency operations and do reference integration with the Federal establishment, though not directly with NSEP; nor are they necessarily aware of NSEP requirements.

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)

"The NEMA is an organization of state directors of emergency management. It was formed to promote the interests, serve the needs, and advance the objectives of emergency management at the state level of government, in partnership with FEMA and local governments across the nation. In his presentation to the Committee in March 1985 the President of NEMA repeated what the Committee has heard many times, namely, that emergency telecommunications planning is the weakest element of programs that should be responsive to emergency situations. The organization wants to be informed, and consulted, on the problems and issues associated with national emergency telecommunications planning. FEMA and NEMA, in concert with state and local governments, should address the development of multijurisdictional emergency telecommunications systems that are flexible enough to be utilized for the range of hazards likely to occur.

"The Committee recommends that NEMA be brought into the planning framework immediately, with FEMA acting as the leader.

Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc. (APCO)

"APCO, which has been in existence for 50 years, is an organization with over 6,000 members representing all aspects of public safety communications. Although it is a strictly volunteer organization with a permanent staff of only 12, its members are all employed at local, state or federal levels in communications systems. These systems include telephone and microwave systems as well as mobile radio. One of APCO's most important functions involves the coordination of radio frequencies. It is formally recognized by the FCC as the sole coordinator for the Police Service, but it also operates in law enforcement, fire, local government service, special emergency, civil defense and emergency preparedness, forestry, and conservation and highway maintenance.

"APCO is concerned almost entirely with public safety and its dependence on good communications. In keeping with this concern it has identified our key needs which it believes should be addressed:

The need for national leadership. "We need to know who our leader is and begin joint planning with that leader. Some one agency must be recognized as the leader of this Federal, state and local planning partnership;"

The development of a comprehensive long range plan. This will probably cost $500,000 even though APCO members will participate at no cost to the government;

A requirement for suitable and adequate radio frequency spectrum; and

The need for adequate financial resources.

These four points are closely related.

"The Committee sees in APCO, a non-profit organization with an excellent reputation based on 50 years of public service, a remarkable resource which should be formally recognized by the NCS and made a partner in planning under the leadership of FEMA. APCO and FEMA are already in the process of drafting a memorandum of understanding in support of FEMA's concept of an Integrated Emergency Management Systems (IEMS). The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) strongly supports APCO -- the work it is doing and its objectives for the future.

"APCO had directed its efforts largely to the FCC because that agency makes the decisions that affect the public safety allocations of the radio-frequency spectrum. A more formal association with FEMA can direct APCO's efforts also into those areas so important to NSEP which, of course, are also concerned with public safety.

Spectrum Management

Over the last two years, the Committee has heard extremely discouraging examples of the way the radio-frequency spectrum is planned and allocated. Some examples:

A state trooper going north on an interstate highway cannot communicate with a trooper going east;

In one county in Florida there are 39 frequencies used in law enforcement but only one common frequency between law enforcement and drug abuse agencies statewide. Local governments work at 57 different frequencies. In many cases police cannot communicate with firemen;

Other than teletype there is only the telephone system providing communications between states and the Federal government.

Incremental release of frequencies by the FCC and the ensuing scramble for allocations has created this chaotic condition. It has led directly to the inability to communicate across services or jurisdictions because of incompatible and somewhat random frequency allocations. Cooperative planning by FEMA, NEMA and APCO is a first step toward resolving this major problem."

APCO REGIONAL CONFERENCES: Dates and places for the 1987 APCO Regional Conferences have been established as:

Western States Regional: March 15-19, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: Henry McGowen, 303-691-8125.

North Central Regional: April 26-29, Cleveland, OH. Contact: Mike Barnes, 216-234-9911.

Gulf Coast Regional: May 12-14, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Elaine Worley, 404-535-5312.

The East Coast Regional is not held because the National Conference is held within that region.