

# APCO REPORTS

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## ASSOCIATED PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS INCORPORATED

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At the end of October, APCO's emphasis was on getting frequency coordination computer facilities in position around the country; working out staff transition complexities; stimulating efforts to develop a "National Plan" for the use of the newly allocated 6 megahertz of spectrum in the 800 MHz band; moving into a data collection stage for the Association's study contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency; developing Committee approaches; working to complete the first APCO Directory; working to move the APCO Telecommunicators Training Program into being; and working to convert APCO's internal accounting system to a new program.

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COORDINATION: The November 1986 issue of the APCO BULLETIN should be in your hands within a few days of receiving this issue of the APCO Reports, and will be bringing you up-to-date with respect to APCO's Automated Frequency Coordination System.

In brief, computer terminal systems have been assembled and shipped to all APCO primary coordinators; Chuck English has begun service as APCO's Frequency Coordination Director at New Smyrna Beach headquarters; Margaret Cooper is counting down her days with APCO (with a November 20 scheduled departure date) to leave and get married; and the expected complications of getting a completely new approach to frequency coordination were in full flow.

APCO's national point of contact for the coordination of frequencies in the Police and Local Government Radio Services and the Public Safety "pool" at 800 MHz is:

Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc.  
Frequency Coordination Department  
Post Office Box 280  
New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32070

Telephone: 904-423-3629

Personnel in the Coordination Department (after November 20) are:

Charles F. English, Director  
Kathi Buczkowski  
Sheryl Harrer  
Shelia Flournoy

FEMA CONTRACT: Frank N. Haas, Federal Emergency Management Agency project Manager for APCO, at the end of October submitted his third monthly report to FEMA detailing activities undertaken during the month under the contract, noting that the Electromagnetic Compatibility Analysis Center has completed supplying selected

records from the FCC Non-Government Master file for use in a survey which is to be conducted; that the ECAC-supplied data was undergoing manipulation to select the final records from each state to be studied; that the printing of letters and other survey documentation had begun; and that the planning of the conduct of a survey of APCO frequency coordinators to map countywide, county-common and intercity frequencies had started.

ACCOUNTING: In line with directives of the APCO National Executive Committee, APCO's accounting system at the end of October was undergoing minute scrutiny to separate the various operations of the Association into revenue and expense accounts identified with specific functions, with the aim of establishing separate centers for frequency coordination; each National APCO Conference; the APCO BULLETIN; the APCO Directory, other publications (the Standard Operating Procedure Manual, the APCO Reports, the APCO Information Service; etc.); membership; contracts; and education, testing and training.

APCO has contracted for accounting data processing services with ADP, which has more than 50 regional centers and offices throughout the country, and which will initially serve APCO through its Tampa, Florida offices. These monthly reporting services will be provided in a transition from the firm of Betty Kelley, C.P.A. The Kelley firm will continue to serve as Auditor for APCO.

The new accounting system is expected to greatly facilitate the Association's budgeting and financial reporting operations.

1987 CONFERENCE: The November issue of the APCO BULLETIN will carry a first "Call for Papers" to be presented at the 1987 APCO Annual National Conference, scheduled for August 23-27 at the Baltimore (Md.) Convention Center. Prospective presenters are being asked to send their proposals, in writing, by December 31, 1986, with copies to both Program Chairman Ted Weintraub, Baltimore County 9-1-1 Communications Center, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204, and to APCO Executive Director Bob Tall, P. O. Box 669, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32070. Program time will be made available for high quality presentations on state-of-the-art technology in any area of interest to Public Safety communications personnel. Time allocations are being made in half-hour increments, but will not necessarily be limited to one half-hour.

The 1987 Conference will offer the largest exhibit floor ever, and prospective exhibitors are urged to get their space contracts in as early as possible. For details, call Bob Buttgen, Carol Walker or Barb Lawrence, 904-427-3461.

We are also making every effort to forestall hotel accommodation difficulties, and urge all APCO members to send in their housing requests as early as possible. An adequate number of hotel rooms have been reserved in Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor neighborhood, but there are hotel reservation cut-off dates and late requests may encounter difficulties. Information will be in your hands this year earlier than ever before, and we caution you to make your arrangements early.

FOOSANER RESIGNS FCC POST: One notable event at the end of October was the resignation of Robert S. Foosaner from the position of Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau, which he has held since 1983. Bob, who has been a strong supporter of the land mobile radio services in general, has played a major role in advancements the public safety services have experienced in recent years, joined the international law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue in Washington, D.C., where he expects to continue his involvement with land mobile communications matters.

At the FCC, he had served with the General Counsel's Office, the Broadcast

Bureau, and the Office of Science and Technology before joining the Private Radio Bureau in 1981 as Deputy Chief, and moving up to the helm of that Bureau in 1983. Bob has participated in a number of APCO Conferences, and served as Keynote Speaker at the 1986 Annual National Conference in Milwaukee.

Private Radio Bureau Deputy Chief Director Michael Fitch, who has also been a strong supporter of public safety interests at the Commission and a frequent participant in APCO conferences, has been named Acting Chief of the PRB.

NATIONAL PLAN: A schedule of events designed to lead to the fastest "release" of the 6 megahertz of 800 MHz spectrum being allocated by the FCC for nationwide public safety utilization was blueprinted during meetings of interested parties in Washington, D.C. on November 5 and 6. The meetings--one between representatives of frequency-impacted areas, public safety communications organizations, and radio equipment suppliers, and a second between those people and representatives of the Commission--were stimulated by APCO and agreed to by Commission staff officials in late October.

The schedule, conditioned on steps to be taken by the Commission, contemplates establishment of a government/industry Advisory Committee by the FCC in November or December; a first formal meeting of that Committee in January; the submission of a report to the Commission in February or March, with recommendations for a "National Plan" for the use of the new 800 MHz public safety channels; submission of "Regional" or "Area" plans by Regional or Area planning groups in conformity with the National Plan; action by the Commission through the rulemaking process based on approved planning steps; and actual licensing of the new channels as expeditiously as possible in the areas where they are most urgently needed.

The most volatile issue addressed at the meetings was whether the establishment of an Advisory Committee, and the subsequent processes which such an organization is subject to by Federal regulation, would actually be the quickest route to get the new channels in licensed status in such areas as the Northeast Corridor, the Southern California area, Florida, and the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area, which are out of frequencies suitable for the implementation of state-of-the-art public safety communications systems.

FCC Chief Engineer Tom Stanley and FCC Private Radio Bureau Acting Chief Mike Fitch emphasized during the November 6 meeting that the public safety National Plan is one of the Commission's most urgent priorities, and will, indeed, be given "front burner" consideration at the Commission staff level. FCC Managing Director Ed Minkel, who holds Commission responsibility to recommend the establishment of Advisory Committee, assured the group that his office would make the recommendation to do so "within two weeks" after receiving appropriate staff documentation.

The staff officials recognized during the meeting that the most-supported alternative to an Advisory Committee -- the filing of a petition for rulemaking by APCO with recommendations as to a National Plan, and the subsequent steps which the Commission must follow under the Administrative Procedure Act before actual licensing of the frequencies could become a reality -- could take at least as long as a short-fused Advisory Committee approach, and possibly longer.

The Congressional mandate to the Commission which gave rise to the current effort calls on the agency to establish a National Plan which "ensures that the needs of State and local public safety authorities (are) taken into account in making allocations of the electromagnetic spectrum." In establishing such a plan, the Commission is to: (1) Review the current and future needs of such public safety authorities in light of suitable and commercially available equipment; and (2) Consider the need for a nationwide contiguous frequency allocation for public safety purposes.

The Commission has also recognized these earlier directives from Congress as being "clear": (1) In taking actions to manage the spectrum to be made available for use by the private land mobile radio services, the Commission shall consider..... whether such actions will ...promote the safety of life and property; and (2) The Commission should be ever vigilant to promote the private land mobile services needs of police departments and other agencies which need to use such radio services to fulfill adequately their obligations to protect the American public.

In its Report and Order in Gen. Docket Nos. 84-1231, 1233 and 1234, the FCC allocated the 821-824 and 866-869 MHz bands "for public safety use for the development of a National Plan." In so doing, it expressed its belief that "While 6 MHz is less than some commenters projected that public safety needs...this amount of spectrum is sufficient, given the appropriate regulatory framework, to meet the needs of the public safety community well into the future," and "substantial communications capability can be derived from this allocation with the application of appropriate technical requirements through the development of a National Plan."

The Commission said it expects that "the plan will be addressed subsequently in another proceeding"; and it expects that the plan "will be developed as a joint effort between the public safety community, including Federal Government, law enforcement and public safety agencies, and the Commission"; and that Public Safety use of the new allocation will not be permitted until the plan is implemented".

The agency has stated that: spectrum efficient technologies are to be addressed, including enhanced trunking and channel spacing; assignment plans should take into account public safety agency needs, including intercommunication; and further sharing of the UHF television band by private land mobile services, including public safety, in eight major cities has been proposed and can be taken into account in developing a National Plan.

Under the approach being advocated by APCO, several tracks would be running simultaneously to produce: (1) a National Plan; (2) Regional or more local area plans; (3) the FCC rulemaking process; (4) the early-as-possible coordination and licensing of systems in the frequency-impacted areas; and (5) follow-on planning.

Under APCO's approach at this point, the National Plan would consist of guidelines and requirements for Regions and States to use in the development of their specific plans. Once developed within the National Plan guidelines and requirements, each Region or Area would automatically be in conformity with the National Plan and would therefore be compatible with all other Regional Plans.

The National Plan Advisory Committee would include fair and comprehensive representation of all potential public safety users of the 821-824 and 866-869 MHz bands, which are expected to include the State and local government users providing law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, highway maintenance, emergency management, and forestry and conservation services, as well as non-government operations which are integrated into emergency response functions of the governmental agencies. Federal government representatives will be expected to provide participation to assure that interoperability between the State and local resources and the Federal operations is taken into account.

Determinations of spectrum needs for daily operations; mutual aid (intradiscipline); mutual aid (multi-agency, multi-discipline operations at State and local levels) are to be made, as well as the Federal interoperability needs.

Techniques and technologies to be considered in the planning process are expected to include: trunking systems; conventional systems; 12.5 kilohertz channel

offset assignments (with 25 KHz bandwidth); encryption and/or coding approaches; and cooperative public safety radio systems.

APCO's approach would establish a Review Committee to evaluate the compliance of Regional Plans with the National Plan prior to submission of the former to the Commission, and a mechanism to modify the National Plan periodically to accommodate changing conditions and requirements.

The November 5 meeting had been scheduled on short notice when concern was expressed during discussions at an APCO Atlantic Chapter meeting in Albany that no further steps had been announced by the FCC since the Commission's September 26, 1986 release of its "Report and Order" in the land mobile 800 MHz "reserve" proceedings, and in light of the fact that some of the governmental entities in the Atlantic Chapter area have already been waiting as long as two years for frequency assignments to meet immediate requirements.

Organizations represented at the meetings included the Connecticut Bureau of Emergency Telecommunications; the Connecticut State Police; the Florida Division of Communications; Palm Beach County (Fla.) Emergency Medical Services; the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials; the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Police Department; Town of Oyster Bay (N.Y.); Prince Georges County (Md.) Police Communications; Prince Georges County (Md.) Fire Rescue Communications; New Hampshire Department of Transportation; City of Fort Worth (Tex.); Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; City of San Diego (Calif.); Los Angeles (Calif.) Police Department; San Bernardino County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department; Maryland Office of Telecommunications Management; Arlington County (Va.) Emergency Communications Center; Fairfax County (Va.) Fire and Rescue Department; Arlington (Tex.) Police; City of Grand Prairie (Tex.); Dallas/Fort Worth (Tex.) Airport; City of Carrollton (Tex.); City of Dallas (Tex.); National Association of Business & Educational Radio; Military District of Washington; Mesquite (Tex.) Fire Department; Denton County (Tex.) Sheriff's Department; New Jersey State Police; and Volusia County (Fla.).

Commercial enterprises represented at the meetings included: General Electric Co.; Motorola, Inc.; Repco, Inc.; Midland International; E. F. Johnson Co.; and OMNICOM, Inc.

Other radio equipment manufacturers which had been invited to the meetings included Standard; Fujitsu IO Corp.; ICM; ICOM; King Radio; Maxon; Regency; TAD USA; and Tait Two-Way Radio. Other members of the Public Safety Communications Council had also been invited.

APCO, meanwhile, has made an extensive mailing to other associations with public safety involvement, encouraging them to participate in the National Planning effort. Among those who have responded positively and pledged their support are the American Public Works Association; the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the American Federation of Police; the Police Executive Research Forum; and the National Governors' Association.

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\* Persons and organizations wishing to participate in the National Planning \*  
\* effort and who wish to receive updates of APCO activities in this effort \*  
\* are asked to request being put on the APCO mailing list by writing to \*  
\* APCO Executive Director Bob Tall, Box 669, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32070. \*  
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LETTER FROM FCC CHAIRMAN: APCO had also asked FCC Chairman Mark Fowler to elaborate on a statement he had made in prepared testimony for an October 1, 1986 session of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance,

which had discussed the possible auctioning of the spectrum and the possible uses to which revenues received might be put.

Chairman Fowler said Congress might wish to consider using the monies raised "to fund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, low interest loans for means-tested entrants into telecommunications businesses, and the public safety community's acquisition of state of the art mobile communications systems for the new Public Safety National Plan."

In response to an October 10 letter from APCO Executive Director Bob Tall, Chairman Fowler said, in part:

"In response, first let me express my sincere appreciation to you and the entire APCO organization not only for work you have done as a frequency coordinator for public safety, but for the great job you have done in advising and informing the Commission on public safety related matters as well.

"With regard to my statement to the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance, I was addressing some of the possible ways that monies raised by the Commission through auctions could be put back into different areas of telecommunications if auctions were to be authorized by Congress in the section you quoted. Considering the important role that our public safety agencies play in the well-being of our society, I feel that it is important that their telecommunication requirements are addressed and given a high priority. Further, I am aware of the tight budget constraints that most public safety agencies must work under, especially the long budgetary cycle that most agencies must go through to purchase new telecommunications equipment. Therefore, I believe that it would be beneficial if assistance were given to public safety agencies, that could not otherwise become involved with the National Plan. It is for these reasons that I suggested as one of the possible options that the acquisition of state-of-the-art mobile communications systems for public agencies be considered.

"In regard to the National Plan, the staff is now undertaking efforts for its development. We appreciate your efforts to alert organizations with public safety interest about the National Plan. We are cognizant that the development of a useful workable National Plan will require the support and participation of the public safety community. Further, I wish to assure you that we intend to use the expertise and unique experience of APCO to assist the Commission in developing the National Plan. In fact, when APCO meets with the Commission's staff on November 6, 1986, a number of specific tasks which we believe APCO is in a unique position to address will be discussed. We look forward to working with you and APCO in this matter."

APCO COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM: A new APCO National Office Computer Bulletin Board System is now available to any APCO member or individual doing business with the Association. The BBS is running on an IBM PC-XT with a 20 megabyte hard drive and a 300/1200 baud modem. Virtually any generally available computer communications software will work with the BBS. Parameters are:

300 or 1200 baud, No Parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit. The system is operated on a schedule of 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Eastern time weeknights and 24 hours on weekends. The telephone number to use is 904-428-8700. The November APCO BULLETIN will have full details.

The BBS software package being used to operate the system is the popular RBBS-PC Version CPC14-1D, authored by D. Thomas Mack of Great Falls, VA and Jon Martin of Concord, CA and distributed by the Capitol PC Users Group, Silver Springs, MD. Version CPC14-1D represents the latest offering of this full feature bulletin board package.