

offerings, early radios had a frequency knob and an on/off volume control, but that is where the similarities end.

The first portable radios used discreet components, transistors, resistors, tuned coils and crystals for each channel. Today's portable devices have microprocessors and integrated circuits that have made radios programmable with up to 1,000 channels, along with LCD displays that give a read-out of named channels and other operating parameters. Batteries used to be in a separate compartment, not the slide on and lock of modern portables. Battery life is also longer due to increased technologies.

The retired officers who first began using portable radios would be amazed with the capabilities of equipment currently used by patrol officers. In comparison, today's portables have more computing capability than the first NASA rockets.

—RICH RYBICKI, Historical Committee chair

#### APCO CALEA COMMITTEE

### Enhancing the Partnership

APCO's Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Committee was established in 2010 by then-President-Elect Bill Carrow. It was established with the intent of promoting the partnership between APCO and CALEA, honoring communications agencies receiving accreditation awards and providing subject matter experts for standards review and creation. A selec-

## The CALEA committee vets issues dealing with communications accreditation standards.

tive requirement of the committee is that its members must be engaged in the CALEA accreditation process as either an accreditation manager or assessor. Committee members come from a wide variety of communications

centers all across the country.

The committee vets issues dealing with communications accreditation standards and/or questions to/from the CALEA Standards Review and Interpretation Committee (SRIC) and posts comments officially on behalf of APCO International. The committee was instrumental in the 2012 revision and update of the Communications Chapter 7 standards. The committee also works closely with the APCO Communications Center Standards Committee in addition to providing panel presentations at the APCO annual conference.

This committee was the driving force in the establishment of the APCO Institute's online Public Safety Communications Accreditation Manager Course, which is taught by some of the committee members. Recognizing that the success of the accreditation process is dependent upon the skills of the accreditation manager, this online course was developed specifically for the CALEA public safety communications accreditation manager. It is divided into eight weeks of intensive learning with agency-specific research assignments that can be applied to the actual Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program process. By the end of this course, the accreditation manager should be able to:

- Interpret a standard
- Read and write a directive that meets compliance
- Identify and show proofs of compliance
- Build an individual standard status report (ISSR)

- Have a working knowledge of both the standards manual and process & programs manual.

The overall goal is to prepare the accreditation manager to successfully navigate the accreditation process. This

training meets Standard 5.2.13 CALEA Public Safety Communications Accreditation Manager training requirement.

This class has been offered 13 times, reaching 150 students. Three sessions are currently scheduled for 2014 in January, May and September.

In conjunction with CALEA, this APCO committee ensures communications centers that received accreditation or reaccreditation between the July and March CALEA conferences are honored at the following annual APCO conference.

—DEBBIE GAILBREATH, RPL, Communications Accreditation Manager, Sarasota County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office

#### AWARD PROGRAMS

### Submit Your Nominations

Do you know an outstanding individual who works in public safety? If you do, honor their contribution by nominating them for a PSAP award. The APCO Public Safety Communications Awards Program (PSAP Awards) submission time runs from Jan. 1 through April 1. With seven nomination categories, we hope that each agency and chapter will nominate at least one deserving individual for this recognition program. Winners in each category (Director, Telecommunicator, Supervisor, Info Technologist, RF Technologist, Trainer and Team) will receive VIP treatment at the APCO 2014 Annual Conference & Expo in New Orleans.

Nominations are also open for the Technology Leadership Award. This award recognizes the technological advancements of small and large communications centers across the nation. Visit APCO's Membership web pages at <http://apcointl.org/apco-membership/awards.html> for more information on how to nominate your shining star.

#### RPL

### Team Leadership

Stacy Sarna, executive director of Tri-Com Central Dispatch in St. Charles, Ill., received her RPL designation in January 2010. "The RPL program was a