

# Current Procedure

## MEETS

- Operational Needs Of Conference Committee

## CREATES

- An Open Process To Participate
- Unprecedented Cooperation  
Among Suppliers

## DEMONSTRATES

- Interoperability
- Multi Vendor Sources
- Latest Technology

# The Way It Is

3. An APCO Radio System will be used as the exclusive APCO staff/host conference committee operating system.

Designated APCO staff members, Board of Officers and host conference committee members, as determined by the Executive Director, Conference Administrator and Host Chapter Chairman, will have portable radios, pagers and cellular telephones to manage conference operations at the convention center, hotels, and hospitality and special activities sites.

The Administrator will consider multi-vendor systems proposals. An RFP for donated communications equipment will be sent by the Administrator to contracted exhibitors for such systems by 1 October each conference year. Decision for the conference radio system will be determined by the Executive Director and the Conference Administrator.

If no response to the RFP for donated communications equipment is received in any given conference year, an RFP will be sent by the Administrator to companies in the business of renting such equipment.

# Audit Committee Recommendation

## Conference Radio System

*Section A, paragraph 1, 3 of the current Conference Manual states that:*

**An “APCO Radio System will be used as the exclusive APCO staff/host conference committee operating system.”**

While the definition of an “APCO Radio System” is not provided within the Conference Manual, it appears to be the interpretation of the Audit Committee that this rule is intended to require the use of an APCO Project 25 radio system for all staff and host communications functions. While the Audit Committee understands the need to provide a showcase for a project which has long been a major area of attention within the Association, there is some question as to whether the current requirement, if it is indeed tied to a Project 25 system, is in the best interest of the staff and the host agency.

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# Audit Committee Recommendation

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If the host city has a fully functional, non APCO Project 25, radio system which can meet all communications needs of the staff and host chapter, there is some concern as to why an additional radio system must be installed solely for the purpose of showcasing the Project 25 technology. As temporary systems generally have a coverage area limited to the immediate conference site, it is possible, if not probable, that conference staff and host chapter members will be required to carry multiple radios for a singular purpose. As it relates to upcoming conferences, the City of Charlotte will be offering use of their existing Motorola system for conference purposes. This system, however, is not a fully functional APCO Project 25 system. In the following year, the City of Albuquerque will be utilizing their new Ericsson EDACS system, again not a Project 25 system. It is not unreasonable to assume that the 1999 conference in Minneapolis may utilize an E.F. Johnson system, which may or may not be APCO 25 compliant.

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# Audit Committee Recommendation

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## Recommendations

- 1.** If the host Chapter has in place, and offers, an existing radio system that would effectively provide conference related communications services, there should be no requirement that this system be an “APCO Radio System.”
- 2.** If the host Chapter is unable or unwilling to provide effective communications services for the conference, a request should be made to vendors for this service. Under these circumstances, priority considerations should be given to vendors who can provide an “APCO Radio System.”
- 3.** Any vendor desiring to demonstrate new technologies beyond the scope of those required by conference staff and the host Chapter to conduct the effective management of the conference should do so within the confines of their exhibit space or within the APCO pavilion.

# Conference Audit Committee Comments from Bob Brown

**CONFERENCE RADIO SYSTEM:** As I previously suggested the current process as recommended by the Conference Administrator and approved by the Executive Council in August, 1996 should be given an opportunity to work before any changes are made. This process allows for multi vendor participation and unprecedented cooperation among equipment and service providers. It allows for the latest system and product features to be demonstrated in actual use by Public Safety Officials.

Another consideration should be that the conference system should not be using an operational Police or Public Safety System as its primary method of communications. In Detroit, APCO used Detroit's Public Works system. In San Antonio, the city's system could not handle the additional capacity of APCO. A system was brought in but only featured a single vendor. Another point to consider is that APCO normally requires up to 80 portable radios to operate the conference. Most, if not all, host cities do not have that many spare portable radios in their inventory.

# Conference Audit Committee Comments from Bob Brown

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In Charlotte, the system that has been awarded is a multi vendor one consisting of five different suppliers and will have the ability to inter-operate with the Charlotte Mecklenburg system on a secondary basis only. This system will feature a dedicated 4 channel backbone, 3 control stations, up to 100 portable radios, and the necessary site equipment and will be provided to APCO at no cost.

The opportunity to discuss this recommendation with the Corporate Advisory Committee occurred when the committee met in Charlotte, NC on June 3rd. The committee was in consensus that the procedure as it is currently in the Conference Manual is fine since it supports multi vendor participation and cooperation which is in the best interest of APCO, and does not need to change.