

# Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers, Inc.



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PRESIDENT  
JERRY CAMPBELL  
SAN BERNARDINO CTY. COM.  
104 WEST 4TH STREET  
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92415

PRESIDENT - ELECT  
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WINNEBAGO COUNTY, E. S. & D. AGENCY  
COURT HOUSE, 402 W. STATE STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101

FIRST VICE - PRESIDENT  
SANFORD H. SMITH  
DRAWER W-2  
CITY OF GREENSBORO  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27402

**J. RHETT McMILLIAN, JR., Executive Director**

105½ CANAL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 669  
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA 32069

904/427 - 3461

904/427 - 3462

904/428 - 8700

SECOND VICE - PRESIDENT

HENRY L. CRUTCHER  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS MGR.  
POST OFFICE BOX 2390  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811

1978 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

RUSSELL V. ROBINSON

8832 STEEL  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48228

1979 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

JOHN WEBB, JR.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES  
POST OFFICE BOX 9577  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95823

December 6, 1977

TO: Board of Officers

FROM: Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Potential APCO Technical Assistance Program  
under LEAA Grant

The enclosed December 5, 1977 letter to Mr. William Bailey of the LEAA has been sent in response to his request. It describes, in general form, a program whereby the technical expertise available from within APCO's membership, could possibly be made available to Law Enforcement agencies around the country, on an expense reimbursable basis.

This letter is being furnished as preliminary information. Additional details will be presented for Board consideration and guidance at the January 15-19, 1978 meeting.

Inclosure

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VICE PRESIDENT  
FERRY CAMPBELL  
1017 CANAL LAGO CITY, CALIF.  
401 ST. 4TH STREET  
ARLINGTON, CALIFORNIA 92418

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
NATHAN D. McCLURE, III  
SHERIDAN COUNTY, ILL. S. D. ARENA  
COURTHOUSE, 402 W. STATE STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
SANFORD H. SMITH  
DRAWER W-2  
CITY OF GREENSBORO  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27402

**J. RHETT McMILLIAN, JR., Executive Director**

105½ CANAL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 669  
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA 32069

904 427-3461  
904/427-3462  
904 428-8700

5 December 1977

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
HENRY E. CRUTCHER  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS MGR.  
POST OFFICE BOX 2195  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811

1978 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN  
RUSSELL V. ROBINSON  
8832 STEEL  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48228

1979 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN  
JOHN WEBB, JR.  
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES  
POST OFFICE BOX 9577  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95813

Mr. William Bailey  
LEAA - U.S. Dept. of Justice  
633 Indiana Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Bill:

In view of our discussions regarding the need for a more positive approach to technical assistance for communications programs, I thought I might provide you with some of our thoughts. It seems clear that there are special difficulties being experienced by state and local communities in the implementation and improvement of their law enforcement communications systems. It seems appropriate that the rather limited amount of talent that exists throughout the country be made available to those in need.

I think that the problem breaks into two pieces. The first is to provide the necessary assistance to the community when it needs it. The second portion, perhaps of even more importance, is to collect information on the kinds of problems that tend to recur and from it determine what steps or policies can be established to preclude such problems from arising in the future.

APCO is in an ideal position to contribute to both these goals. Our membership is spread around the country, and has extensive experience in the very same problems that face most law enforcement agencies. We have many highly skilled members who, in the aggregate, have accumulated a vast store of experience in all aspects of law enforcement communications. They are predominately employees of tax-supported agencies whose principal motivation is the advancement of their profession.

We also have a National Headquarters dedicated to the solution of public safety communications problems. While our short-range goal may be to put out fires where they occur, our long-range objective is to establish those policies and procedures that prevent the fires from starting in the first place.

I think we could set up a management structure at the APCO National Office capable of responding to requests for assistance as directed and/or approved

Mr. Bailey  
5 December 1977  
Page 2

by LEAA. We would develop an index of those most qualified APCO members, including their special fields of expertise, and their geographical locations. We would develop guidelines to administer their activities and funding. We would establish standards for reporting, and collect data on each request for assistance, its cause and cures.

After a period of experience ( 6 to 9 months), we would review these records and compile an analysis of the problems encountered. Based upon this analysis, we would write a report recommending policies and actions directed toward the elimination of the problems in the future.

My budgetary guess for the cost of such a program, including administration of the program and those providing the technical assistance, the analysis of activities and preparation of the resulting report and recommendations, would be about \$50,000 over one year. To this should be added the costs for the consulting services of the APCO members at \$135 a day plus travel.

During its initial phases, I suggest this program follow the general lines now observed by LEAA, i.e., assistance should be provided on a not-to-exceed five-man day basis per request; however, I recommend that this general limitation be subject to waiver at the direction of or with the approval of LEAA in those instances that might require more extensive effort. I also suggest that the assistance only be provided at the direction of National LEAA. One of the goals of the first report should be to make recommendations regarding methods by which the assistance might best be made available in a timely way to those in need.

These are just some preliminary thoughts. We will follow them by more specific recommendations as soon as possible.

Regards,



Donald D. Kavanagh  
Project Director

DDK/p