The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, Inc. is the world’s oldest and largest not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications. With more than 16,000 members worldwide, APCO International exists to serve the people who manage, operate, maintain, and supply the communications systems used to safeguard the lives and property of citizens everywhere.

2002 APCO International Executive Council Report

The most recent Executive Council meetings were held in on August 9-10, 2002 in Nashville, Tennessee, prior to the 68th APCO International Conference and Exposition. Following are highlights from those meetings:

1. **Baltimore, Maryland**, was selected as the site for the **2007 International APCO Conference and Exposition**. Next year's conference is in **Indianapolis, Indiana**. The APCO Bulletin will have information regarding conferences in each issue between now and August, 2003.

2. The Executive Council approved a resolution to welcome employees from third-party private call centers and the telematics industry as membership eligible to join APCO. The telematics industry is an exciting new membership area for APCO and gives us an opportunity to play a key role in implementing a system that will be of enormous benefit to public safety in coming years. We continue to search for ways to be certain that the telematics industry understands the needs, and contributions, of public safety as this new field grows.

3. The Executive Council accepted the **Homeland Security White Paper**. The primary goal of the white paper is to identify the current Homeland Security challenges faced by public safety communicators, and to highlight some of the activities undertaken by APCO members to meet these challenges. The white paper is meant to create dialogue out of which an APCO Homeland Security Guidance Document can be formulated. Public safety organizations and their memberships all have different communications needs and funding requirements. The APCO Homeland Security Guidance Document will obtain input from all members of the public safety community. Together, we need to converge on a set of priorities for improving public safety communications and get the necessary federal, state, and local support to have those priorities met.

4. The Executive Council approved a resolution to create the **Public Safety Foundation of America**. The foundation accepts donations and distributes funding through grants to assist public safety communications agencies to enhance the build-out and implementation of Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 (WE9-1-1). A limited amount of funding is now available and made possible by NEXTEL Communications Inc., which has donated $3.75 million to this effort in 2002.

5. The Executive Council considered a membership dues increase this year, but the proposal was withdrawn before a vote was taken. It is on the agenda for the mid-year Executive Council meeting in February, 2003, in Sparks, Nevada. There has not been a dues increase for a number of years, and the cost of membership in APCO is less than that of other professional organizations. It is likely that a modest increase will be approved next year, and will become effective in 2004.
6. The Executive Council made the upgrade and maintenance of the **Association's Management System** its top priority for funding next year. The APCO executive staff and Ideas for Funding Committee are working with the Commercial Advisory Committee to develop a plan to fund this upgrade to present for approval to the Executive Council.

7. The Executive Council received the vision of the future from Thera Bradshaw, President of APCO International, Inc. Thera introduced four cornerstones for her administration:

- think globally;
- develop alliances;
- begin now to mentor and train leaders for tomorrow; and
- become strategists.

In keeping with these goals, strong alliances have been developed with national organizations sharing our interest in communications issues that impact communications agencies nationwide. Notable alliances and professional relationships developed through the work of the APCO Board of Officers include:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police;
- International Association of Firefighters;
- National Sheriffs Association;
- American Public Works Association;
- National Association of State EMS Directors; and

8. APCO is in a position to lead and provide expertise, especially related to radio spectrum and interference issues. The major discipline-specific associations bring considerable political pressure while APCO can provide the focused expertise to drive home issues of concern with great credibility. APCO is clearly the premier association that specializes in monitoring, protecting and representing public safety's continued access to sufficient radio spectrum to meet the requirements of the public safety community for wireless services. APCO has a strong voice at the FCC, representing over 16,000 members. For this reason, APCO is currently considering a proposal to open an office in Washington D.C., and exploring the possibility of affiliate membership at the United Nations.

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This report was prepared and respectfully submitted by:
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