APCO International

2026-27 Press Kit

About APCO International

Founded in 1935, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International is the world's oldest and largest organization of public safety communications professionals and supports the largest U.S. membership base of any public safety association. APCO International provides public safety communications expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach to benefit more than 35,000 members and the public. The corporate headquarters of the Association is located in Daytona Beach, Florida, with executive and government affairs offices located in Alexandria, Virginia.

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APCO Leadership

Executive Committee (2022-2023)



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Executive Director
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First Vice-President

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Jack Varnado
911 Director
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CEO & Executive Director: Mel Maier: maierm@apcointl.org

Current Issues

What's Trending in the Public Safety Communications Industry

9-1-1 Location Accuracy

Locating wireless 9-1-1 callers presents a challenge for emergency communications centers (ECC), especially for indoor locations. APCO's work with industry partners helped lead the FCC to adopting new rules that will ensure ECCs have the information they need to find 9-1-1 callers.

More at apcointl.org/advocacy/location-accuracy/

FirstNet

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. FirstNet is responsible for implementing a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. APCO played a key role in leading an extensive and successful lobbying effort to secure passage of this significant legislation.

More at apcointl.org/advocacy/firstnet/

Recognizing the 9-1-1 Profession

9-1-1 professionals protect the lives of the general public and first responders every day. APCO works to ensure that public safety telecommunicators are properly recognized for their life-saving work and provided the resources they need to accomplish their missions.

More at apcointl.org/advocacy/soc-revision/

Cybersecurity

As advanced technologies become integrated into public safety communications networks, new and emerging cyber risks are an increasing concern. APCO develops resources and training materials to help ECCs prevent, detect, mitigate and respond to cyber threats.

More at apcointl.org/cybersecurity/

Next Generation 9-1-1

9-1-1 systems across the nation are dependable, but based upon decades-old technology. The vision of a Next Generation 9-1-1 system is for the ECC to be able to receive and process various forms of data from the public and other sources, including calls, texts, photos, videos and sensor information. APCO works to help prepare ECCs for broadband communications and ensure that NG9-1-1 and other emerging technologies are innovative, interoperable and cost-effective.

More at apcointl.org/technology/next-generation-9-1-1

Events

Annual Events Hosted by APCO International

Annual Conference & Expo

APCO 2027
July 25-28 | Anaheim, CA

APCO's Annual Conference & Expo is the premier event in public safety communications. More than 6,000 attendees and exhibitors come from across the globe to hear from industry experts check out the latest products and network with peers.

apco2026.org

Public Safety Innovation Summit

APCO International Summit Series
Public Safety Innovation Summit
Featuring 5X5

December 1-2, 2026 | Orlando

APCO and the First Responder Network Authority, with technical contributions from NIST's Public Safety Communications Research Division, brings together leaders from public safety, government, industry and academia to advance the future of responder communications technology.

apcosummits.org/innovation

AI Summit

AI Summit
Spring 2027
APCO International Summit Series

This event explores the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in emergency communications. The AI Summit brings together public safety professionals, technology leaders and innovators to examine how AI is reshaping the 9-1-1 landscape.

apcosummits.org/ai

Supporting the Industry

Recognition and Assistance for the Public Safety Communications Community

Awards Program

Public Safety Communications Awards
APCO International presents awards to public safety communications personnel who have demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the line of duty.

Technology Leadership Awards
These awards recognize communications centers that use technological advancements to benefit their center, employees and customers.

apcointl.org/awards

NPSTW

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
This week-long event, held annually during the second week of April, honors telecommunications personnel in the public safety community.

npstw.org

PSFA

Public Safety Foundation of America (PSFA)
The PSFA, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in January 2002, provides critical funding and technical support to communications centers and local emergency response officials.

www.psfa.us

Scholarship Programs

APCO scholarships provide reimbursement to APCO Full, Associate and Agency Members for professional development and career advancement costs.

The Silent Key Scholarship Program honors individuals who, in their lifetime, contributed to the industry and association.

The Commercial Advisory Council (CAC) Scholarship Program Fund was created by the Commercial/Corporate Advisory Council as a means for its commercial members to give back to the public safety community.

apcointl.org/scholarships

Public Safety Expertise

APCO Provides These Resources and Services

Services

APCO provides communications centers and telecommunicators with services, resources and technical experts on issues such as operations, staffing and retention, interoperability and cybersecurity.

- Consulting Services
- APCO Project RETAINS
- IntelliComm (R)
- Guidecards
- Standards Development

Radio Frequency Management

AFC, APCO's Spectrum Management Division, provides comprehensive radio frequency coordination for communications centers. With the most experienced staff and the largest network of volunteer experts, AFC is the only organization that offers full radio frequency management services. APCO is the FCC's point of contact for interference below 512 MHz.

- Frequency Coordination
- Licensing Services
- License Management
- Engineering Services

Training and Certification

The APCO Institute provides on-site, in-house, online and virtual courses covering topics critical to public safety professionals' development, from basic training to supervisory skills to emergency medical dispatch.

- Certified Public-Safety Executive (CPE) Program
- Registered Public-Safety Leader (RPL) Program
- Agency Training Program Accreditation
- Continuing Dispatch Education (CDE)
- Course Catalog

APCO International

Online Presence

APCO on the Web

apcointl.org
APCO International Website

apcointl.org/psc
PSC & eNews

apco2027.org
APCO 2027 Annual Conference

npstw.org
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

apcosummits.org
APCO Summit Series

psfa.us
Public Safety Foundation of America

psconnect.org
PSConnect - Online Community

njti-tert.org
National Joint TERT Initiative (NJTI) Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (TERT)

Stay Connected

Keep Up To Date With APCO News and Events.

News Coverage

For current news about APCO International, visit:

apcointl.org/news-publications

apcointl.org/psc/category/apco

External news relevant to the public safety communications industry can be found at:

apcointl.org/psc

Publications

***PSC* – Public Safety Communications Magazine**

As the official magazine of the APCO International, *PSC* is the authoritative source of information on public safety communications worldwide. Subscription to the magazine is a member benefit.

PSC eNews

PSC eNews is a weekly electronic newsletter providing industry updates and APCO news. Subscription is open to all interested in the public safety communications field.

Annual Report

APCO produces its annual report every July. See the most current report at www.apcointl.org/annualreport

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