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APCO-MS.org Web Site Launched

Jackson, Mississippi, August 21, 2004 — The Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International, APCO-MS, announced today its publication of an Internet site to support the organization's goals.

The new site APCO-MS.org, found on the Internet at <http://apco-ms.org>, will serve as a central source of information for members of the Chapter, members of APCO International, and the general public. It will serve many functions, providing public safety information, information about the Chapter and its parent organization APCO International, easy contact of the Chapter and its Board of Officers, educational opportunities for public safety professionals, and links to public safety and other sites of interest around the world.

APCO-MS President Brenda Gowdy commented quite favorably on the site and its goals. "The site was a lot of hard work, but I think we'll find that the rewards are many. It's an ongoing project, and it will respond to the current and future needs of our members like no other resource available. We're already seeing quite a bit of interest both from public safety professionals and the public, and we intend on continuing the growth of the site to match our organization's growth."

Design and implementation of the site was handled by Tupelo, Mississippi company Bit One Communications, who described how pleased they were with APCO-MS and their work. A company spokesman said, "What APCO does is hard to explain to the general public, and this should prove to be a great venue for getting that message across. A lot of the good things they do go unnoticed because it happens behind-the-scenes. But what they do has the net effect of saving people's lives, and they deserve plenty of recognition for that. We proudly support APCO-MS and applaud the hard work they do both locally and on the international level."

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In addition to the content currently offered on the site, new features are planned to increase communication and cooperation between public safety agencies. One such feature is forums for APCO members to discuss issues, exchange helpful information, and better educate themselves in their chosen profession. Educational offerings currently on the site are being upgraded to enable members to better find the continuing education opportunities available. More public information on emergency preparedness is soon to be available, as well as other features described by Gowdy as being “big surprises that we’re keeping hush-hush until they’re ready to be released.”

Gowdy further commented on the site’s potential, adding, “We’re looking to strengthen our membership and reach out to those public safety professionals who might not be aware of APCO and what it does for saving lives and property. Getting the word out is important, and this serves as an excellent base for our efforts. We’re expecting big things from APCO-MS.org, but I can’t tell you how pleased we already are with it.”

Hosting for the APCO-MS.org site was donated by Santa Monica, California company iPowerWeb, who offered their support after examining the organization and its many benefits for the public. “They’ve been great to us,” said Gowdy. “They’ve worked closely with us in getting the site launched, and have been a huge source of support. iPowerWeb is helping us develop some of the great things we have planned for the site, and we can’t thank them enough. We especially thank Yaniv Masjedi and the Help Center personnel for being so supportive and patient with us.”

APCO-MS is the Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International (APCO), 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 around the world, 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.

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