The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

November 20, 2026

NAPO Wins FCC Approval for Cell Phone Jamming in Prisons

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted on November 19 to adopt a final rule allowing state and local correctional facilities to use jamming technology to block contraband cell phones—a victory for NAPO. NAPO Executive Director Bill Johnson welcomed the rule's adoption:

> "The National Association of Police Organizations thanks Chairman Carr for this final rule authorizing indoor jamming in correctional facilities. Indoor jamming helps prevent inmates from using contraband cell phones to coordinate violence and smuggle drugs and weapons. Searches and confiscations alone have proved insufficient and put officers at additional risk, making jamming an important tool to protect officers, inmates, and the public."

For NAPO, this is first and foremost an officer safety issue. Inmates have used contraband phones to coordinate attacks against correctional officers and their families, organize inmate violence, strikes, disturbances, and riots, and arrange deliveries of illegal drugs and weapons. These threats underscore the need to authorize indoor jamming in state and local correctional facilities.

More searches and confiscations have not stopped the use of contraband phones, and additional searches put correctional officers at greater risk of physical attack. This ability to utilize indoor jamming technology gives facilities another tool to protect officers, inmates, and the public.

NAPO Champions Labor Priorities, Co-Hosts Welcome for Incoming Lawmakers

NAPO highlighted its labor and employee benefits priorities for the next Congress, when Democrats take power, at the House Congressional Labor Caucus' New Member Meet-and-Greet Breakfast Reception on November 12. Invited to join the hosting committee, NAPO was represented by Director of Governmental Affairs Andy Edmiston. The reception brought together newly elected members of Congress and union legislative and political directors, giving NAPO an opportunity to introduce itself to incoming lawmakers as both a police organization and a labor organization.

NAPO's labor priorities for the 120th Congress include legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to all public safety officers (the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act and the Public Service

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Freedom to Negotiate Act), to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Section 7(k) standards so that public safety officers are given the same access to overtime as every other overtime-eligible employee in our nation, and to allow retired public safety officers to buy in to Medicare at age 50 (Expanding Healthcare Options for First Responders Act).

There was a robust turnout at the meet-and-greet with a significant number of newly elected representatives from an array of backgrounds in attendance. We look forward to working with these new members to protect the rights, working conditions, and benefits of our nation's law enforcement community.

Fighting PTSD Act Returns to House as NAPO Pushes for Year-End Passage

Congressman David Joyce reintroduced the Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Act in the House to build support for passage before the end of this Congress. The bipartisan bill addresses a growing mental health crisis among the officers who protect our communities. Since the Senate passed the bill (S. 825) by voice vote on June 10, NAPO has pressed the House to take it up and pass it. NAPO secured its inclusion in a broader bipartisan Senate Judiciary Committee amendment to the Senate version of the Fiscal 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), but House obstacles remain to including it in the final, negotiated bill.

Officers are 2.5 times more likely to die by suicide than by homicide, according to the National Study of Police Suicides, a sobering statistic. State and local law enforcement officers respond to our country's greatest tragedies, as well as to the violent and abhorrent crimes that occur all too often in our neighborhoods. They carry the horrors they have seen and experienced, yet they still put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities.

The stress of the job has a direct impact on an officer's mental wellbeing, yet agencies have only recently begun working to make sure officers have access to the resources they need to address their emotional and mental health. That gap is what this legislation aims to close.

The Fighting PTSD Act is an important first step toward giving all officers access to confidential, state-of-the-art treatment for PTSD and acute stress disorder. It recognizes how common PTSD is in the public safety profession and the need to address both disorders so officers get the treatment they need. By acknowledging how often these disorders occur and making treatment and resources widely available, we can work to reduce the number of officers we lose to suicide.

NAPO is working to build cosponsors in the House to put pressure on Republican leadership to support moving this bill before the end of the year, whether as a standalone bill or as part of a must-pass piece of legislation.

Lawmakers Elect Leaders for 120th, Race to Finish 119th Congress

House and Senate Republicans held their leadership elections the week of November 9. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is stepping down following Republicans' significant election losses. House Republicans chose Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) as Minority Leader for the next Congress, with Congressman Tom

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Emmer to serve as Minority Whip. In the Senate, Republicans chose to keep Senator John Thune (R-SD) as their leader.

On the other side of the aisle, House Democrats voted overwhelmingly to make Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) their nominee for Speaker of the House. It is expected that Minority Leader Jeffries will easily surpass the 218 votes necessary on the House floor when the full chamber elects the speaker in January. Congresswoman Katherine Clark (D-MA) will be the next Majority Leader, and Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-CA) will be Majority Whip. Senate Democrats are scheduled to hold their leadership elections on December 1, with Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) throwing his hat into the ring to challenge current Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY).

Congress faces a December 11 deadline to pass a Fiscal 2027 continuing resolution and avoid a government shutdown. Both chambers will be out next week for Thanksgiving recess and return on November 30, leaving only two weeks to negotiate and pass the measure. Congress has made little progress on its packed lame-duck agenda since the election. House and Senate appropriators are debating how far into the new year the continuing resolution should extend, while some Democrats are pushing to shut down the government rather than provide further funding for the war in Iran.

Congress is scheduled to adjourn on December 18, leaving a busy final stretch of legislative work. The fiscal year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) still must pass. The Senate has also begun debating federal permitting reform, which faces hurdles in the House. Meanwhile, the Administration and some lawmakers are pushing for consideration of reauthorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

NAPO is focusing on priority bills with the strongest prospects for passage before the next Congress begins: the Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits Expansion Act, the Monitor Accountability Act, the Fighting PTSD Act, and FirstNet Reauthorization. The strategy is to advance these measures through a larger must-pass package, such as the NDAA or an appropriations measure, or by voice vote. With deadlines approaching and floor time at a premium, NAPO is pursuing the legislative opportunities most likely to bring these priorities across the finish line during the narrow lame-duck window.

Join Us for NAPO's Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar

February 7 – 9, 2027
Caesar's Palace Hotel, Las Vegas

Please join the National Association of Police Organizations at our **39th Annual Police, Fire, EMS, & Municipal Employee Pension & Benefits Seminar, February 7 –9 , 2027,** at Caesars Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NAPO's Annual Pension & Benefits Seminar educates pension system and employee representatives, along with their providers and vendors, about the latest issues affecting the pension and benefits industry. Topics will include:

- Results and Effects of the Midterm Congressional Elections on Federal Policy
- Effects of Mid-East Conflicts on Markets and Economic Uncertainty
- Growing use of AI, Benefits and Risks
- Mounting National Debt and Threats to the U.S. Credit Rating

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- Liability Pitfalls & Practical Advice for Fiduciaries
- "Outside the Box" Benefits as a Component of Recruitment & Retention

We will examine these areas and more as we evaluate the effect of these trends on public employment benefits and security, and the near- and mid-term future for U.S. and world economic conditions.

Take an active role in improving the future of your fund by registering today. You will find information regarding registration and hotel reservations on NAPO's website: www.NAPO.org/PB27

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact NAPO's Director of Events, Elizabeth Loranger, at eloranger@napo.org or (703) 549-0775.

Submit Your 2027 TOP COPS Awards® Nominations Today!

NAPO will host its **34th Annual TOP COPS Awards Dinner on Friday, May 14, 2027, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C**., during National Police Week.

The purpose of the TOP COPS Awards® program is to educate the American public about our nation's heroes and to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in federal, tribal, state, county, and local agencies from across the country for outstanding service to their communities during the preceding year. The TOP COPS are nominated by fellow officers and are selected from hundreds of nominations by an independent awards committee. The officers from the top ten cases (our TOP COPS) are flown to Washington, D.C. and recognized at the ceremony. In the past the President, Vice President and Attorney General of the United States have honored the award winners. NAPO bears all cost of travel and lodging of the winners.

A nomination form is attached and can also be found on our website at **www.napo.org/TC27**. Any sworn law enforcement officer may nominate their fellow officer for a TOP COPS Awards®. Selection for an award is based on involvement in a specific incident or case wherein an officer(s) has gone above and beyond the call of duty. **The deadline for nominations is January 8, 2027.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Elizabeth Loranger at eloranger@napo.org or (703) 549-0775.

Please monitor NAPO's website, www.napo.org, and Facebook page: National Association of Police Organizations, and follow us on X at NAPOpolice for breaking news and updates.

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