

SkyBridge will transmit mock election results.

CVE To Broadcast Election Results In Civics Ed Project

COMSAT Video Enterprises (CVE) will play a major role in a nationwide civics education project next month when it broadcasts results of the National Student/Parent Mock Election over its video distribution network. CVE's broadcasts will feed live election updates to as many as 100 hotels across the country serving as local and state election headquarters.

The "mock election" on Nov. 3 will be the culmination of weeks of study and discussion that brings students and parents to the "polls" for a simulated vote in the days before the general election.

As results from across the nation are tallied at national headquarters in New York on mock election day, CVE will transmit via satellite up-to-the-minute reports to participants awaiting the outcome of the day's voting at local election headquarters across the nation. "SkyBridge,"TM CVE's satellite news gathering vehicle, will transmit the signal to the satellite from national election headquarters at the Time-Life Building in New York City. The signal will be received by satellite earth sta-

"...It will help us build a stronger nation for the future—and it will be an experience that none of the participants will forget."

Senator Edward Kennedy

tion antennas situated at hotels equipped to receive CVE's **Satellite Cinema®** entertainment programming.

Other major sponsors of the mock election include Holiday Inns, Inc., Time Magazine, CNN, Home Box Office and Conus Communications. Each is acting as a major contributor to the

project, either by providing facilities for election activities or by participating in the broadcast of election results.

A project of the non-profit National Student/Parent Mock Election organization, the event is aimed at increasing participation in the democratic process, particularly among young voters. Studies showing that U.S. voter participation is the lowest in the world — and that young voters are the least likely to go to the polls — provided impetus for the project.

It began with the general election in 1980 and has been conducted at mid-term and general elections since then. Each time, mock election results have proven remarkably accurate in forecasting the outcome of the actual election.

CVE President David Beddow said he was delighted that his organization had been invited to help run the mock election. "Voter education and participation are critical to the future of the democratic process. We're pleased to offer our services to such a worthwhile project. The flexibility of our network and our ability to broadcast live events makes it possible for us to participate." ■

Chairman's Award Winner: 'It Was A Complete Surprise'

All morning, Bob Smith recalled, his attention had been riveted to his department's budget. His goal: to finish before the 2 p.m. meeting that his boss, Larry Westerlund, had called.

It wasn't until he arrived at Westerlund's office and found no one there that things began to take an unusual twist.

"Five minutes later, the scam continued," he joked. "Terry Gamble, Westerlund's secretary, told me I had been summoned to Mr. Goldstein's office."

"He was alone in his office and greeted me, saying, 'You have no reason to be concerned. In fact, quite the contrary.' Then he opened the door to the adjoining executive conference room — and there were Larry, Joel Alper, Paul Palmiter, Bob Baumann and Dick McGraw.

"It was a complete surprise," Smith said.

Thus it was that COMSAT General's Robert K. (Bob) Smith learned he had become the first recipient of COMSAT's new Chairman's Award, introduced earlier this year as part of the company's revised compensation plan.

Designed to recognize truly distinguished performance, Chairman's Award winners receive bonuses of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Any employee can be nominated. Winners are selected by the chairman. And if there is a winner, the award is made near the end of the calendar quarter.

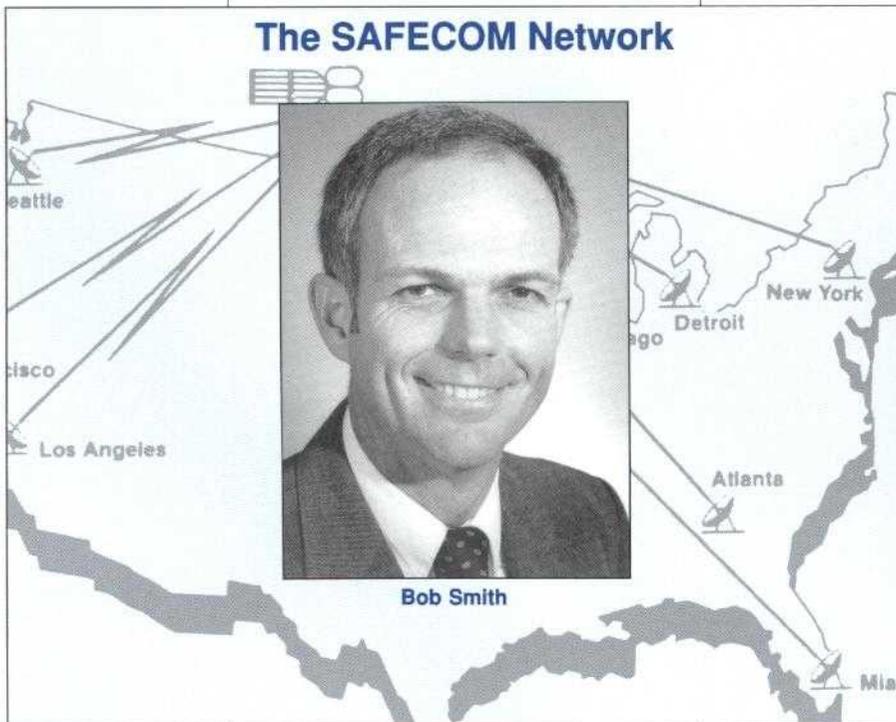
Cited for leadership in bringing the SAFECOM joint venture between COMSAT General and Timeplex into operation, Smith has been with COMSAT for six years. Before being tapped to lead the SAFECOM project, he worked on COMSAT General's NBC program distribution system. SAFECOM uses the COMSTAR D2 and D4 satellites operated with the COMSAT Maneuver and earth stations

from across the company. What's more, he had to coordinate them.

"All projects have a common denominator," Smith said. "They get done by people. Managing a project is a matter of listening to people, trying to anticipate what they'll need and getting it for them so they don't have to wait around wasting productive time," he said.

"I try to keep myself out of the direct loop as much as possible," Smith said. "I see my role as getting them what they need so they have control over their part of the project."

COMSAT General's role in getting the venture going — modifying and activating the ground segment — is basically completed, Smith said. All nine cities in the SAFECOM network are up and running. Three customers — Goldome Mortgage Bank, Avon Products and TRT — are already taking advantage of the low cost T-1 communications services sold



by SAFECOM. It markets inexpensive T-1 communications services to U.S. customers. A T-1 circuit provides the equivalent of 24 voice or 56 kilobit data circuits.

"This is not that hard to do when you've got a lot of good people out there to call on," Smith told Goldstein at the ceremony.

With no direct staff to call on in carrying out COMSAT's responsibilities under the SAFECOM agreement, Smith had to assemble an ad hoc team of 11 core and 19 support personnel

by SAFECOM.

Six full-time sales people and three applications engineers are on the road for SAFECOM — and an incentive program is in place for Timeplex and COMSAT Systems Division sales and marketing people to refer customers to the venture, Smith said.

With SAFECOM now operational, what is next for Smith? Well, he says, "COMSAT Systems Division has a lot of proposals out there...." Proposals just waiting for employees like Smith to make real. ■

Benefits Questions? Call Denise—X6622

Denise Baker's new job comes with a tall order: to clear up the confusion and lower the frustration employees encounter in understanding COMSAT's benefit plans.

Brought on board in mid-September as Human Resources' benefits service representative, Baker sees her position as the central clearinghouse for information on all of COMSAT's benefits programs.



Denise Baker

Her role, she says, is to act as a one-stop shop for employee questions. Her principal task will be to provide the answers.

The position she holds, Baker says, is designed to address one key frustration: In the past, when an employee wanted to ask questions about the various benefits plans — 401 (k) savings and profit sharing, health, dental and life insurance, vacation, and others — he or she often had to call more than one plan administrator. As she becomes familiar with COMSAT, Baker says she expects to be able to handle questions on the full gamut of the company's benefits plans.

"I'm working to become so familiar with COMSAT's plans that I can provide employees with an immediate response," she said. "And if I can't, I'll research the answer and get back to the employee as soon as possible."

In addition, Baker will be responsible for producing benefits communications materials.

Her background should provide good preparation for the task she faces. Most recently with First American Bank of Virginia, Baker was responsible for coordinating and communicating benefits plans for some 70 client companies. "I'm very familiar with benefits plan documents," she said, noting that most of her 14-year career has been devoted to administering client benefits programs.

Reflecting on her career and the challenge of the job ahead, Baker said, "My dealings have always centered around employee concerns and frustrations. That's been my whole experience.

"My best performances are when I'm under pressure—It challenges me to seek more information and find a better, more beneficial response that meets both employee and company needs," she said.

Certainly one to put herself on the line at the office, Baker apparently doesn't mind a risk or two outside the office either. Her interests: white water rafting, skiing and investing. ■

Industry News

- Ford Aerospace Corp. has been awarded a \$394 million contract by INTELSAT to build five INTELSAT VII satellites, the first of which is scheduled for launch in mid-1992.

- A recent NASA study reports that U.S. companies earn an average of \$700 million per year from domestic satellite transponder leases. International satellite networks, primarily INTELSAT and INMARSAT, generate about the same amount of lease revenue, according to the report. Also reported: The Department of Defense spends considerably more than NASA on space — \$16.3 billion vs. \$7 billion in FY'87. DoD's R&D budget is over five times bigger than NASA's.

- Launch insurance is likely to get more expensive again. Insurers' losses, which could total \$150 million, could exceed the estimated \$90 million in premiums collected. According to Aviation Week magazine, before this year's satellite losses, insurance rates had eased slightly downward from the high of 25-26 percent of the total satellite launch package to 20 percent just before the loss of the Gstar-3 satellite recently.

- INTELSAT provided 32 simultaneous TV channels and used nine satellites in feeding coverage of the 1988 Summer Olympics to nations around the world. ■

IRS OKs ESOP End

The IRS last month approved COMSAT's application to end its Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), freeing the company to distribute the plan's assets to participants. Employees who filed the appropriate forms for distribution by Sept. 30 should receive a check around the end of November.

ESOP participants who missed the September deadline may file the appropriate forms with Human Resources by the end of the fourth quarter on Dec. 31. Those who file in the fourth quarter can expect to receive their distributions

in late February.

Human Resources can supply the appropriate forms:

- Employee Stock Ownership Plan Disbursement Form;
- Application for Transfer of Shares of Common Stock, to be filled out only if you are requesting a share — not a cash — distribution; and
- ESOP Federal Income Tax Withholding Form.

Questions can be directed to Denise Baker, Human Resources' new Benefits Services Representative at (202) 863-6622. ■

WSD Wins Contracts To Monitor Satellites Totalling \$46.3 million

Eight new antennas and a new control building will begin rising from the ground at COMSAT's Clarksburg, Md., site some time next year, the offspring of COMSAT's recent contract award from INTELSAT for Tracking, Telemetry, Command & Monitoring (TTC&M) station services after 1989.

The contract also calls for COMSAT to provide similar services in the Pacific from facilities in Paumalu, Hawaii, after 1989.

INTELSAT also awarded COMSAT a contract to provide Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) Reference and Monitoring Station (TRMS) services from facilities in Etam, W. Va., in the post-1989 period.

The combined value of the contracts is \$46.3 million.

INTELSAT's TTC&M network, which will consist of six sites around the world under the terms of the recent contract, tracks the location of its satellites, monitors on-board functions, controls spacecraft positioning and carries out on-board connections among the transponders. The TRMS network synchronizes traffic terminals and controls and monitors the short bursts of signals inherent in digital networks to ensure correct timing and positioning.

Providing these services to IN-TELSAT is not new for COMSAT. The company has been under contract for TTC&M services for 10 years from Andover, Me., and Paumalu, and has provided TRMS services from Etam since 1984.

What is new is that the Clarksburg facility will be a stand-alone site, designed entirely for carrying out TTC&M. Historically, TTC&M has been performed by the same earth stations that send and receive communications signals.

"The advantage of the stand-alone facility," according to World Systems' Dick Skroban, "is that if there is a failure, the dedicated TTC&M station can remain pointed at the satellite until the problem is resolved. An earth station

that performs both communications and TTC&M functions must be pointed immediately to the spare satellite, so communications aren't interrupted. With a dedicated station, INTELSAT can react to a problem more quickly."

Skroban added that Clarksburg's proximity to INTELSAT's Washington, D.C., headquarters would also speed reaction time. "Having it so close will enable INTELSAT's engineers to get to the station quickly to address emergencies," he said.

The new complex will be located southeast of the main Clarksburg building on land at the lowest point of the property. The largest of the eight antennas will be 19 meters in diameter. Another will be 14 meters and the remaining six will measure 9 meters in diameter.

Skroban hopes to staff the Clarksburg facility from within the company, he said. "We hope to bring as many employees from our TTC&M station at Andover as we can." ■

Standards Discussion



Photo: Carroll Haugh

Ivor Knight, director, international systems standards, COMSAT World Systems (far right), leads a group of industry experts in discussing new standards for the emerging digital communications services such as ISDN—Integrated Services Digital Network. COMSAT's Knight, along with representatives from AT&T, MCI, U S West, Bell South, IBM, GE, Federal Express and various government agencies, will meet next month in Australia to examine technical and policy issues. The ninth Plenary Assembly of the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee hopes to streamline the worldwide telecommunications standards approval process to keep pace with the enormous growth in technology. COMSAT has been host to a series of preparatory meetings over the past few weeks.



Looking Back

- 43 years ago, in Oct. 1945, Arthur C. Clarke's famous theory that the synchronous orbit would be ideally suited to communications satellites because they would appear to remain fixed over the same point on the earth's surface was published in *Wireless World*.
- 31 years ago, on Oct. 4, 1957, Russia launched the first manmade satellite, Sputnik I.
- 24 years ago, on Oct. 10, 1964, COMSAT coordinated arrangements for carrying live TV broadcasts of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo to the U.S. using NASA's experimental SYNCHOM III satellite.
- 10 years ago, on Oct. 13, 1978, Congress passed the International Maritime Satellite Telecommunications Act designating COMSAT as the U.S. representative to INMARSAT. ■

In Gilbert's Wake, COMSAT Provides Links

COMSAT's satellite communications services last month helped open the communications doors that Hurricane Gilbert obliterated in his sweep through Jamaica, Mexico and Southern Texas.

In the wake of the storm's devastation, World Systems Division's Intelsat Satellite Services (ISS) and Maritime Services provided essential communications links.

The day after the hurricane disrupted cable service and damaged at least one international earth station in Jamaica, ISS began emergency service through the Jamaica Digiport at Montego Bay.

The 48 circuits provided were the only commercially available communications links to the island for days. Those links enabled pleas for assistance to go out and telephone calls to relatives.

Maritime Services, which provides the satellite links for portable satellite earth terminals, was called on for INMARSAT satellite capacity. Several U.S. rescue service operations, a Houston-based airlines company, an oil company and three U.S. broadcasters alerted COMSAT that they would need emergency communications service. ■

Griscom Joins COMSAT Board

Thomas C. Griscom, previously assistant to the President for communications and planning at the White House, has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of COMSAT's board of directors, for a term expiring at COMSAT's 1991 annual meeting. He is one of three presidentially appointed directors. Griscom, 38, was nominated by President Reagan to succeed Neal B. Freeman on the COMSAT Board. ■



Thomas C. Griscom

PROMOTIONS

Labs

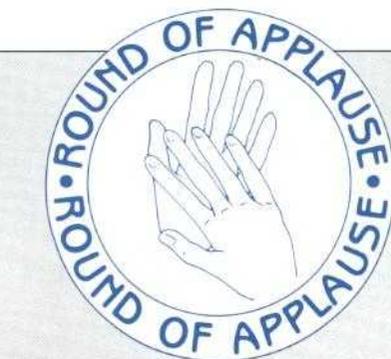
Barbara Reader, System Coord.
Michael Auth, Dir. Fin'l Svc.

CSD

Angela Casterlin, Prod. Spec.
Charles Barber, Lead Sys. Cont. Tech.
George Allison, Sr. Software Engr.
Karen Faller, Exec. Secretary
Kenneth Hoch, VP, Contr. & Procurement
Larry Burch, Dir. Mktg. Plans & Strategies

Marla Kinkella, Sr. Software Engineer
Mary Duvall, Admin. Secretary
Pamela Athey, Exec. Secretary
Paula Epifano, Exec. Secretary
Ricki Ohl, Acct/Documentation Spec.
Robert Craig, Sr. Technician

Corporate Staff
Frances Sebuabey, Mkt. Research Analyst
Linda Rinehart, Sr. Cust. Svcs. Tech.
Sabrina Kepple, Corp. Svc. Administrator



Sandra Clatworthy, Sr. Financial Advisor
Sherri McGaha, Information Spec. II
Tracy Naylor, WP Systems Coordinator

WSD

Christopher Walters, Mgr. Business Syst.

Karen Moore-Elmore, Purchasing Agent
Paul Pizzani, Mgr. Fin'l Plng & Cntrl-ISS
Pete Comar, Mgr. Systems Support
Rosemarie Boarman, Systems Analyst
Stephen Hayes, Sr. Network Controller

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

20 Years

Geoffrey Hyde
John Reynolds
Paul Schrantz
William Windell
William Burch
James Jennings
Lawrence Westerlund
Jack Hannon
Sylvia Walker

15 Years

David Weinreich
Joan Prince
John Bleiweis

10 Years

Catherine Waters
Patricia Baker
David Jupin

20 Years

Jack Singer
Norman Farmer
Patricia Wolfe
Chris Mercer
Donald Dopp
Victor Schendeler
Joanne May
William Bicksler
Kristin Glover
Shirley Cofield Pitts
Clyde Grant

5 Years

Tarra Woodfield
Dipankar Dasgupta
Jacqueline Arnold
Jean Miller
Robert Baumann
Richard Johnson
Rudolph Otto, Jr.