

PROGRAM TRANSMISSION
NATIONAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM (NIAC EBS)

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1. GENERAL	

1.01 This practice covers the National Industry Advisory Committee (NIAC) Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) and provides description and operating instructions for it. The EBS requires the careful and complete cooperation of all Bell Operating Telephone Companies (OTC), AT&T Long Lines Department and a number of Independent Telephone Companies (ICO). Operating Telephone Companies will provide copies of these procedures to interested Independent Telephone Companies. The term "Telephone Company" or "Telco" as used in this practice includes OTCs, ICOs and AT&T Long Lines Department.

1.02 This Issue 2 supersedes and cancels section 320-007-000, Issue 1, AT&T Standard in its entirety. The authority to provide the EBS Networks and Telco operating procedures have been totally revised so individual paragraph changes are not indicated.

1.03 The purpose of EBS is to provide the President and the Federal Government with a means of

communicating with the general public through non-government broadcast stations in case of national emergency, by interconnecting to a common point of origin those broadcast stations authorized by the FCC to receive this service. Any so authorized station in the United States, regardless of network affiliation or non-affiliation, may therefore request "receiving only" connection to the EBS service under the conditions outlined in Part 3.01 of this section.

1.04 The basic EBS network consists of the combined facilities of the participating program and TV audio networks. They are:

American Broadcasting Company (ABC) Program and TV Audio Networks.

Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Program and TV Audio Networks

Intermountain Network, Inc. (INI) Program Network

Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) Program Network

National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Program and TV Audio Networks

National Public Radio (NPR) Program Network

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) TV Audio Network

United Press International Audio (UPI-Audio) 2000-Series Network

1.05 The EBS Plan may be divided into two parts. The first is the action required to connect the President's message to the network and the second is the distribution of that message to the authorized

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stations in the country. In the first, it contemplates that a message can originate anywhere and be delivered to one of seven cities that have been selected as entry points to the network. These cities are "Notification Points" and are also called "Telephone Company Toll Test Locations" in some FCC publications. For the second part, instructions follow covering those activities.

1.06 There are three basic plans, NIAC #1, NIAC #2 and "Last Resort," all of which are covered by 5 basic steps of:

- (a) Authentication
- (b) Notification
- (c) Activation
- (d) Program
- (e) Termination

In addition, tests of NIAC Order 1 and NIAC Order 2 are ordered by the FCC on a periodic basis and are handled differently from actual activations. (See 320-007-001 and 320-007-002.)

2. PRIORITY

2.01 EBS activation is blanket authority for the Telephone Company to interconnect all or any portion of local channels and/or inter-exchange facilities of the participating networks as may be required to establish the service. In addition, EBS activation takes precedence over all other Program and TV Audio Orders and services, message and all other private line circuits except Government Priority 1 circuits. These Priority 1 circuits may be used for EBS if a specific release is obtained from the customer. 660-207-010 should be followed in the preemption of message and private circuits.

Note: It should be recognized that official (Telco) Communication Facilities are essential for the operation of both EBS and Government Priority 1 circuits and therefore should be protected.

3. ADDITION OF NDEA STATIONS

3.01 Stations who hold National Defense Emergency Authorization (NDEA) will be added to

the EBS Network during activation regardless of network affiliation or non-affiliation, provided they have an existing local channel and the EBS Network is available at that point or can be extended to that point as covered in 2.01. Verification of NDEA is not a Telco responsibility. Therefore, any station having an existing local channel will be added upon request. The Serving Test Center (STC) should, as is normal business, give each station with a full-time local channel the STC phone number used to order connection to the EBS Network.

3.02 Any existing local channel from the Telephone Company testroom may be used for such service. A check should be made for availability of any necessary amplifier and bridging equipment, and of suitable facilities, where needed, to connect from the point of network juncture to the local channel. Where program grade facilities are not available for this use, any available facilities suitable for the transmission of speech may be used. Plans for making this connection should be reviewed periodically for feasibility and adequate transmission performance.

3.03 Normally, stations having network affiliations are already connected to the NIAC-EBS Network. However, in the case of other locations, all existing receive full-time local customers should be added to a network source as soon as notification of an NIAC activation is received by an STC. This will insure that all locations have an EBS source as soon as possible.

3.04 Should an STC receive a request for service from a station before being informed of the activation of any NIAC order, the STC should proceed immediately to provide the service to the station and inform its Supervising Office. After investigation of the service request, continued service should depend on advice from the Supervising Office.

4. AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURES

4.01 Authentication is the procedure by means of which the appropriate Federal agency activates a particular NIAC order. There are to be a primary authentication and a secondary or backup authentication, as nearly simultaneous as possible.

4.02 In the case of NIAC Orders 1 and 2, primary authentications is via teletype circuit GT 13050, and secondary authentication is via tele-

phone. GT 13050 is a teletype network continuously established on order from the customer for this purpose and designated WHCC/NIAC Teletypewriter Alerting and Authentication System. The telephone authentication uses special unlisted telephones installed at the interested test rooms. Details of the authentication procedures for NIAC Orders 1 and 2, including use of the above-mentioned teletypewriter system, are contained in an FCC instruction titled "Standing Operating Procedures for Implementation of NIAC Orders Using the WHCA/NIAC Commercial Radio Network Teletypewriter Alerting and Authentication System" (short title SOP-1) and distributed to those offices requiring it. SOP-3 provides similar instructions for the telephone (secondary) authentication procedures.

4.03 Authentication procedures for "Last Resort" NIAC orders nos. 101-106 are covered in SOP-3 distributed to those cities requiring it.

5. NOTIFICATION

5.01 Notification is the procedures by which information concerning the NIAC activation is disseminated to all Serving Test Centers. Both primary and secondary authentications initiate notifications, using prepared notification chains applicable to all NIAC orders.

5.02 The Long Lines Headquarters Network Operations Center will receive primary notification and authentication of NIAC Orders 1 and 2 on teletype circuit GT 13050. After Acknowledgement Actions in SOP-1, the Network Operations Center will transmit the following notification message on TT 0001.

"This is (name) of Network Operations Center. Place NIAC Order (No.) in effect at (time)".

The above message will be repeated a second time followed by a series of ten ten-bell alarms; activation procedures will then be initiated by all plant points.

5.03 The NR General Control Office will receive primary notification and authentication of NIAC Orders 1 and 2 on teletype circuit GT 13050. After Acknowledgement Actions in SOP-1, NR will transmit the following notification message on teletype circuit 0212-002 and on AdNet using the group codes: NYCON, WASHCON, ATLACON, CHICCON, DALCON AND LOSCON.

"This is (name) of NR General Control. Place NIAC Order No. in effect at (time)."

The above message will be repeated a second time followed by a series of ten ten-bell alarms; activation procedures will then be initiated by all plant points.

5.04 One of the six Television and Program Control Offices (New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Dallas and Washington, D.C.) will be the notification and authentication point for NIAC Orders 101 through 106. (See 320-007-003.)

5.05 A common or master notification chain from the Notification Point to other Telco offices are applicable to all NIAC orders. This notification chain, consisting of seven charts, is attached to this section as Figure 1. It does not reach every Telco office involved in the NIAC EBS, especially some of those involved only in the addition of remote NDEA stations; therefore, it is still necessary for individual testrooms to supplement the chain as required with local notification chains.

5.06 Changes and corrections to the notification chain of Figure 1 are the responsibility of the appropriate District Manager in whose territory the change is required and should be forwarded by telegram to offices concerned, including the Headquarters Staff Operations and Operations Districts, Divisions, and Areas affected. That Headquarters Staff Operations should forward the changes to AT&T Headquarters, Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Pending issuance by the Headquarter Staff Operations of the corrected charts (Figure 1), corrections should be made locally by all concerned.

5.07 The most readily available means of communication between offices should be used to pass the notification as quickly as possible. If, in the course of notification, a calling office is unable to reach the program office in a particular city but is successful in reaching another testroom (e.g., K or L carrier or 17C board) in the same city, the latter testroom should be asked to accept the notification and see that it reaches the intended office. However, in the interest of quickly advancing the notification to other offices, the calling office should then proceed as though it had been successful in reaching the city in question. (See 5.08).

5.08 If unable to reach an office (A) for which it has notification responsibilities, the notifying of

office should then attempt to notify the next office of offices in the notification chain for office A using any available means. For example, consider the notification chain for the midwest area, (Figure 1D) in which Chicago notifies Des Moines, who notifies Davenport, Iowa City, Waterloo, and Mason City. If Chicago is unable to reach Des Moines, he notifies Davenport and requests Davenport to act for Des Moines in notifying Iowa City, Waterloo, and Mason City. Similarly, if office A above is a Control or Sub-control Office, the next office available in the notification chain should assume the control or subcontrol functions of office A.

5.09 Each office having notification responsibilities should maintain and keep readily up-to-date records showing telephone numbers, routings, etc., required to reach those offices for which it has notification responsibility.

5.10 In passing an activation order through Plant notification channels, the format should be as follows:

“This is (name) of (office name). Place NIAC Order (No.) in effect at (time)”.

This does not supersede or modify any special procedures for notification or authentication that may have been given to the Control Point or other selected Telco offices for specific NIAC orders.

5.11 A termination order, discussed in Part 7, is to be passed through Telco Plant notification channels in the same manner as the activation order, although the notification may be initiated differently than the activation order. Its format should be as follows:

“This is (name) of (office name). Terminate NIAC Order (No.) at (time)”.

If the termination is immediate, the time should specify “at once”.

5.12 A termination request for one NIAC order may be included in an activation request for another NIAC order. For example, terminate NIAC Order No. 1 and activate NIAC Order No. 2.

6. ACTIVATION

6.01 The following instructions cover activation of NIAC Orders 2 and 101 through 106.

6.02 Upon receipt of notification for activation “at once” or “as soon as possible,” the Control Point immediately should feed from the designated program source all available networks and legs. The Control Point then should proceed to notify other offices for which that office is shown as responsible in the notification chains (including local chains, see 5.05).

6.03 If the activation is requested for a specific time and time permits, the Control Point should immediately pass the information into the notification chain. In such cases EBS provides a 400-cycle tone (and perhaps intermittent announcements) between the time specified for activation and the start of the actual broadcast material.

6.04 Under either of the conditions specified in 6.02 or 6.03 above, immediately prior to the start of the program to be broadcast, there are to be at least two minutes of continuous talk-up stating, “a Presidential Message (or National Program) will be heard in (minutes) and (seconds) from now.”

6.05 Testrooms involved should prepare local patching or switching instructions to cover each order and keep them readily available at the program or testboard positions at which the action would be performed. These must be kept up to date.

6.06 Testrooms that are transmitting control current to (operating) type 1 reversible facilities should release control immediately, and the Control Point for the upcoming service should take control. Customer control of type 1 reversible facilities should be disabled by the adjacent testroom, and the associated station should continue to receive incoming service.

6.07 As covered in 3.01, STCs having responsibilities for feeding NDEA stations that are not affiliated with any of the participating networks should, on receipt of notification, anticipate service requests from these stations and proceed to establish the necessary facilities.

6.08 Testrooms having “in and out” feeds on network circuits should bridge the network lines through, taking care not to interrupt the receiving service to the associated station. Similarly, when one participating network normally is fed from another via an “in and out” station feed, the networks should be connected directly at the testroom. Where a section of type 1 reversible facility is operated in tandem

with a non-reversible section, the testroom at the transmitting end of the reversible section (under the network arrangements required for the upcoming service) should apply control current to it.

6.09 In any circumstances where the special program is not reaching any portion of the combined networks after the designated patches or switches have been made, make the switches and/or patches as necessary at any testroom where the special program is available, taking care to retain proper levels. (A Serving Test Center is responsible for service furnished to its stations.) Control and Subcontrol Offices should function in their normal capacities, insofar as possible, to establish the service; however, STCs should take initiative as necessary to obtain the program for their (authorized) stations, advising their Supervising Offices at the earliest opportunity of the action taken. Any voicegrade facility may be used for these services if wideband program facilities are not readily available.

6.10 All testrooms must be careful to avoid setting up closed singing paths, feeding two sources of program into one bridge, or other unsatisfactory performance. Naturally, all points who have taken action should continue to monitor the program until final termination.

7. TERMINATION

7.01 Request for termination is made by the customer when termination is desired and does involve authentication.

7.02 Control, Subcontrol, or individual offices should not attempt to restore facilities to their normal layout until they have received a definite termination order originating through established notification channels.

7.03 Requests from the Broadcasting Companies for restoration or rearrangement of all or any portion of their networks should not be acted upon until after a termination order has been received.

7.04 Individual stations that are connected to the network at their request (see 3.01) may also be disconnected at their request before the formal termination order is received.

7.05 The termination order (see 5.11) specifies the time or a cue from the pickup to terminate the

service. Networks and stations then should be restored to the condition specified by the current operation or service orders for the particular time of the restoration. This includes disconnecting all non-affiliated stations that may have been connected to a network.

7.06 After termination, changes requested by the broadcasting customers should be handled on normal basis.

8. TESTS — SOP 2

8.01 The times and dates of tests for NIAC Orders 1 and 2 are authorized in advance by the FCC in collaboration with NIAC. Tests will be conducted on a random or scheduled basis not more than once a month and not less than once every three months.

8.02 Closed circuit test procedures are detailed in SOP 2 issued by the FCC. All points involved in these procedures have SOP 2. BSP 320-007-002 and telegraphic supplement cover special switches for tests of NIAC Order 2.

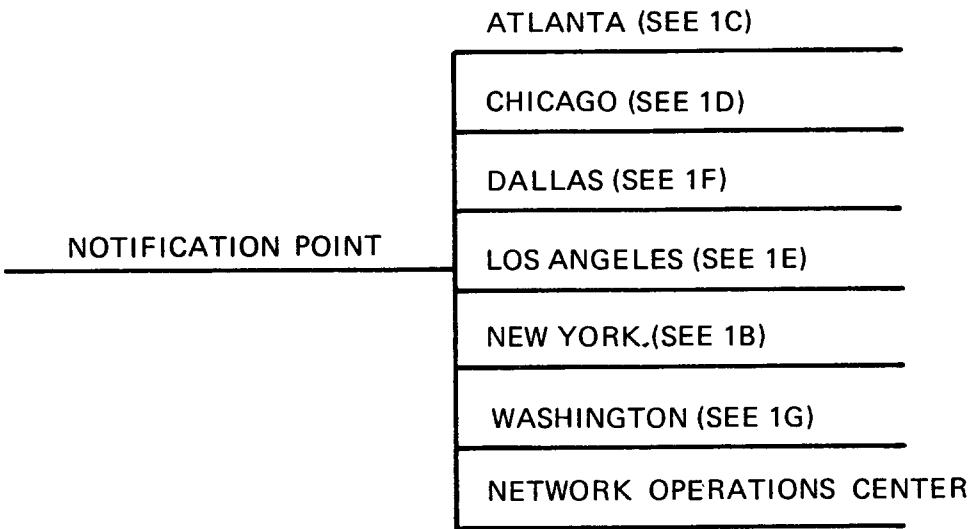
8.03 Non-affiliated NDEA stations are *not* added to closed circuit tests, but if an independent station receives permission to add to a closed circuit test, a service order will be issued to add that section.

8.04 There will not be any tests of Last Resort NIAC ORDERS 101 through 106. (See BSP 320-007-003).

9. REPORTS AND RECORDS

9.01 All testrooms involved should keep careful and accurate log records of all messages sent or received and actions taken in connection with establishing an NIAC order.

9.02 Interruptions to NIAC service, once it is activated, should be reported in the normal manner in accordance with established procedures for Program Services. If a Control or Subcontrol Office cannot be reached for any reason, the next office available in the notification chain should assume the control or subcontrol reporting duties of the first office (see 5.08).



NOTE: THE NOTIFICATION POINT WILL BE HARRISBURG OR ONE OF THE SIX CONTROL OFFICES.

Fig. 1(A)—NIAC-EBS Notification Chain—All Orders

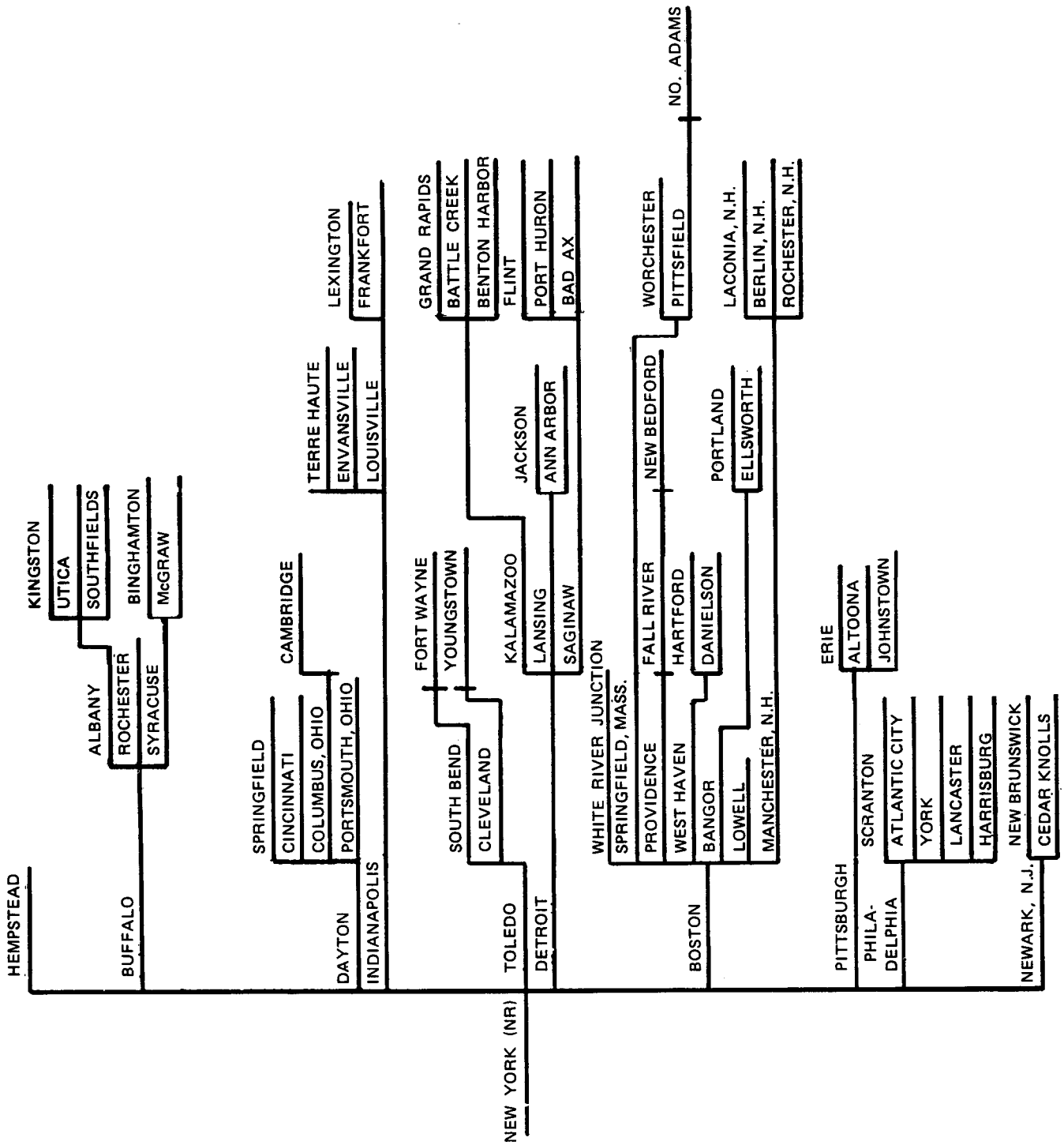


Fig. 1(B)—NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For New York Control

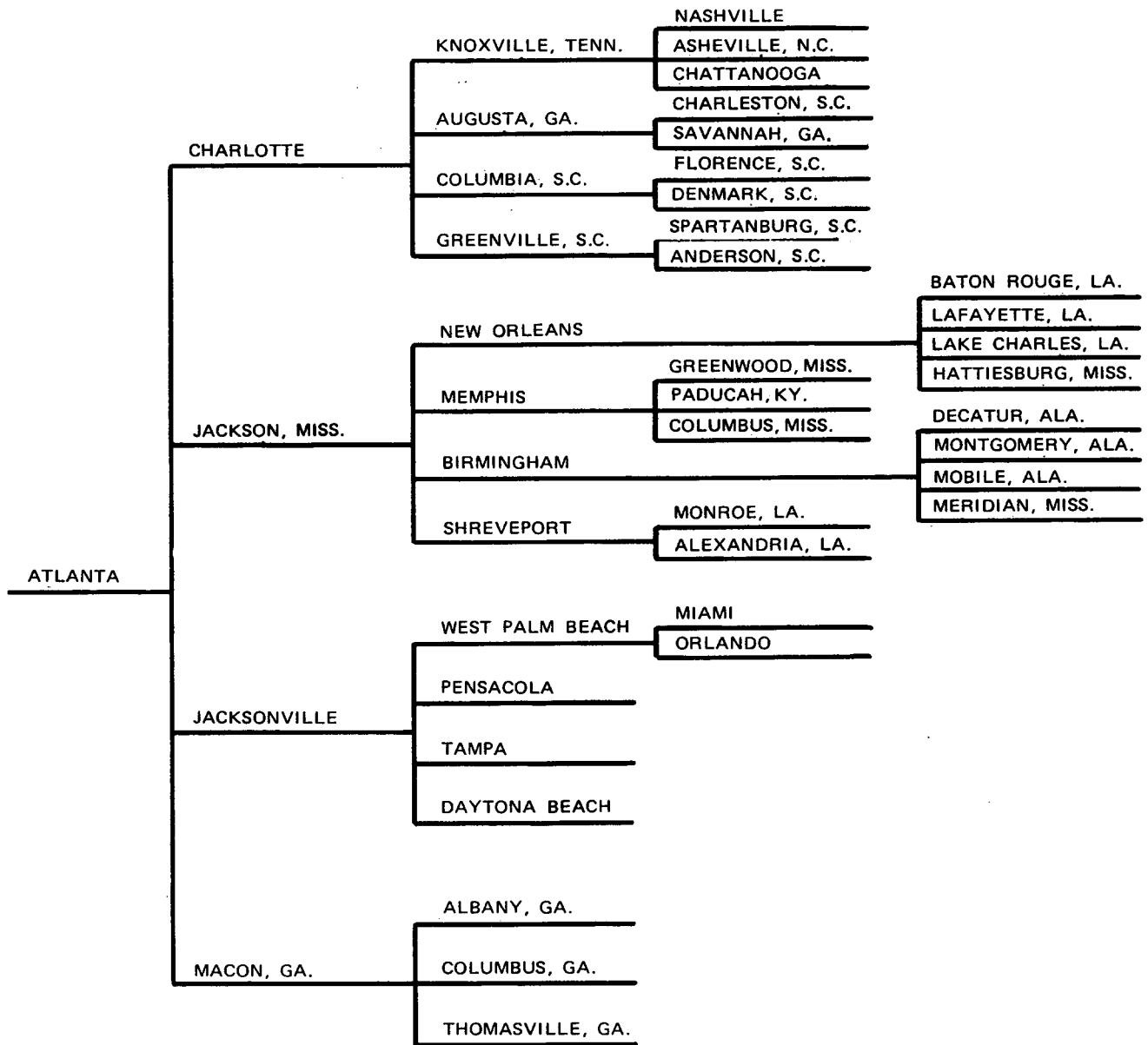


Fig. 1(C)—NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For Atlanta Control

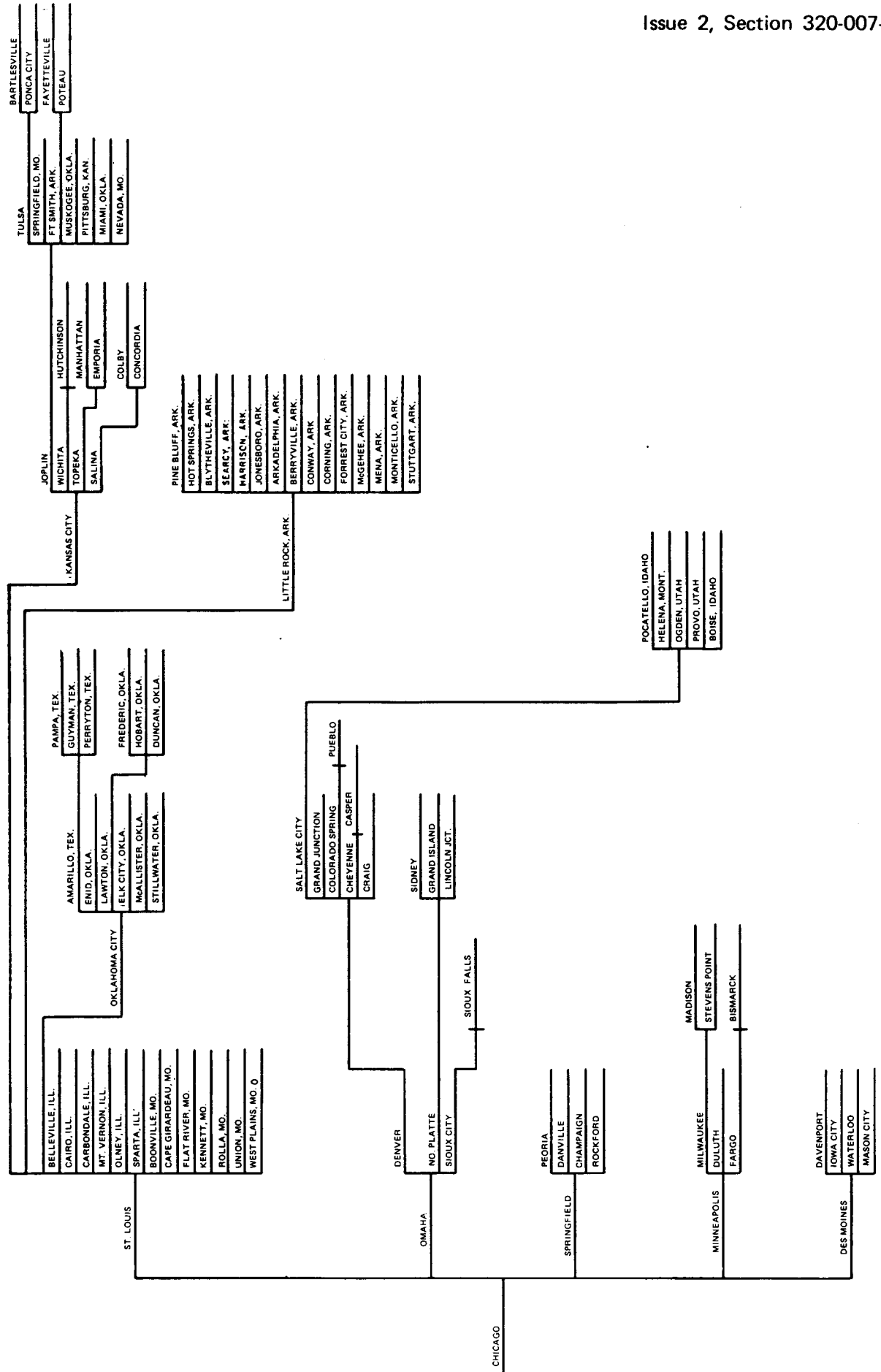


Fig. 1(D)–NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For Chicago Control

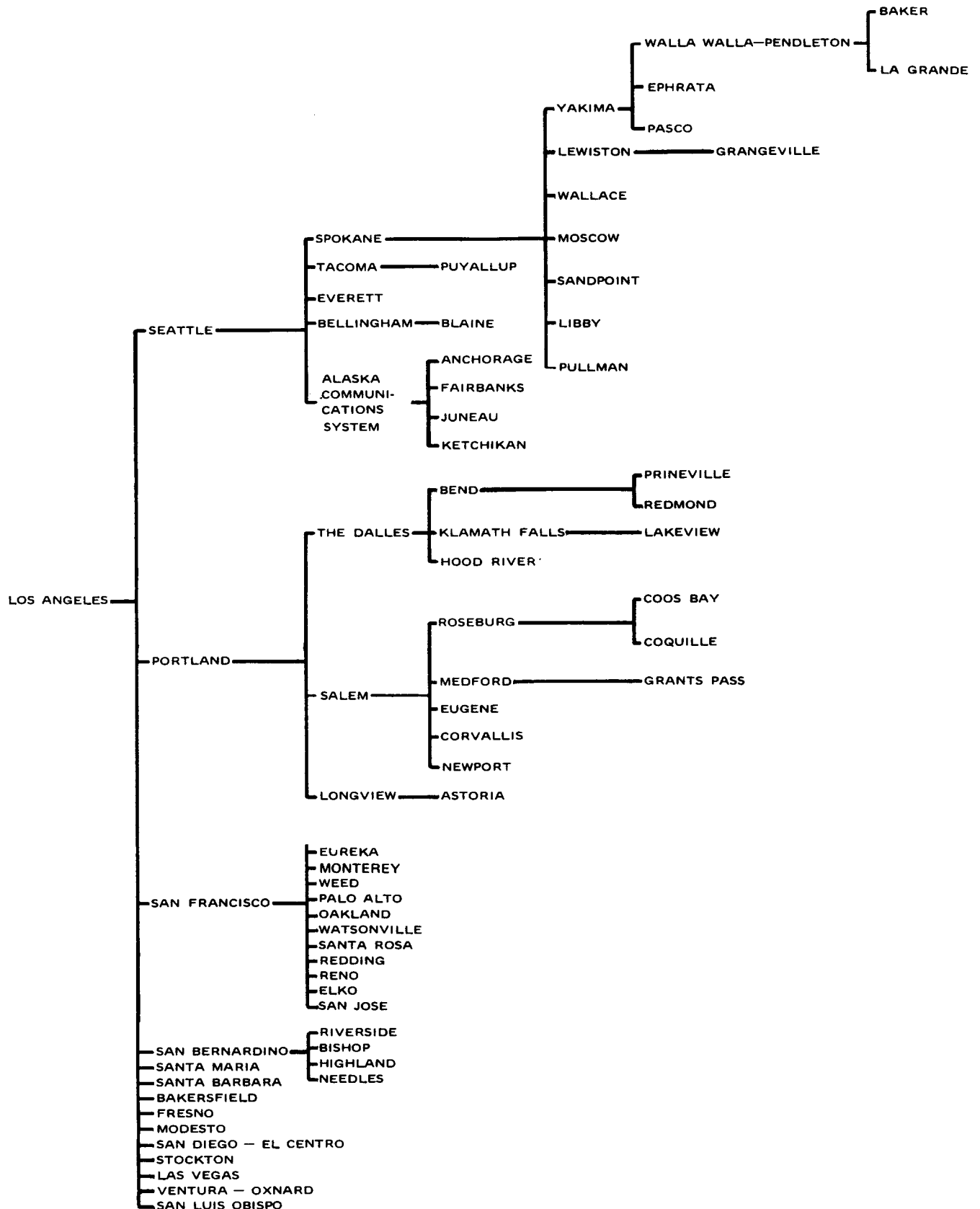


Fig. 1(E) NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For Los Angeles Control

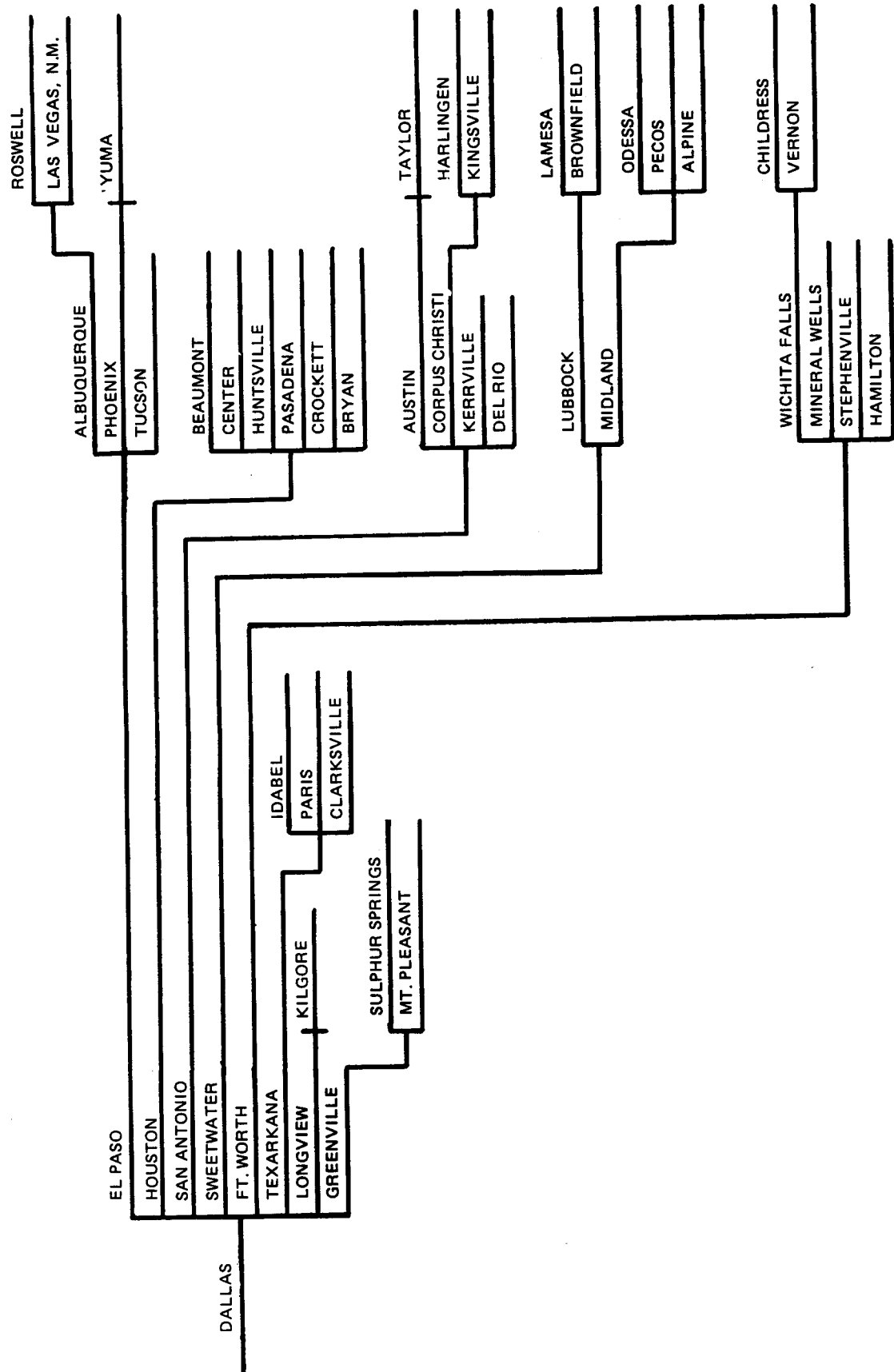


Fig. 1(F)—NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For Dallas Control

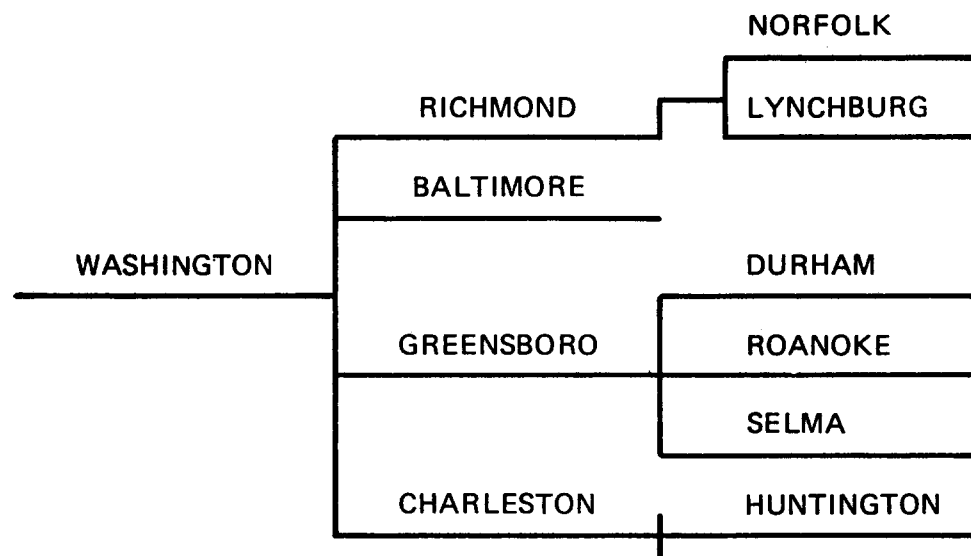


Fig. 1(G)—NIAC-EBS Notification Chain For Washington Control