

## Survey to Chief APOs

### Issue: Soundproofing office

#### Question (from Juniata County):

Last winter, our Probation office moved and while the soundproofing wasn't great at the old offices, it is worse here. A while back some less than professional people came in and laid insulation in the drop ceilings to supposedly help the problem. That cost \$3,000. I think the only thing that accomplished is keeping us warmer in the winter. You can still hear conversations through the office walls at times and from the main office into the hallway. However today my one officer said he could hear our conversation in the office upon exiting the restroom which is at the end of the hall. This is a problem that eventually will bite us.

Does anyone have any ideas? I imagine we are going to need to blow insulation into the walls, but if anyone knows of any reputable companies that specialize in office soundproofing, please let me know.

#### Bucks County

We had a similar problem when we moved into new administrative offices. We purchased "white noise" machines (about \$30) for each of our offices to protect confidential discussions. However, when we use our conference room for meetings the rest of the office suffers due to the noise.

#### Lancaster County

We have a building-wide "white noise" machine which seems to help.

However, we still have problems in our reception station. Working with our county engineer, the next step they will try is installing acoustic panels/tiles on the walls in that area. I'm told they will absorb the sound so that it does not "bounce around" the room. I don't know if they are using an outside company but if I find out, I will send the company name and information

#### Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County has the same problem. We approached the Commissioners on three occasions to ask for funds to cover sound masking (white noise) but the request was denied each time.

#### York County

We have similar problems and we are in a brand-new building. I approached our facilities management people about the problem and was told that even insulation would not help the problem because it was mostly due to sound traveling through our HVAC system. Have you considered those white noise machines placed strategically around your office?