



The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee

The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) provides industry-based analyses and recommendations to the Executive Office of the President (EOP) on how the Government can enact policy for or take actions to enhance national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications.

The NSTAC is composed of up to 30 Presidentially appointed senior executives who represent various elements of the telecommunications industry. The committee advises the President on a wide range of issues related to telecommunications, information systems, information assurance, infrastructure protection, and other NS/EP concerns. The NSTAC meets quarterly to report on its activities.

BACKGROUND

President Ronald Reagan created the NSTAC by Executive Order (EO) 12382, *President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee*, in September 1982 to advise the President on matters regarding NS/EP telecommunications. Four issues preempted the establishment of the NSTAC: (1) the divestiture of AT&T; (2) increased Government reliance on commercial communications; (3) potential impact of new technologies on NS/EP telecommunications; and (4) the growing importance of command, control, and communications to military and disaster response modernization.

NSTAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NSTAC activities are the genesis for many technical reports, recommendations to the President, and NS/EP operational programs. Since its inception, the NSTAC has examined various issues, including network resilience and convergence; commercial satellite survivability; cybersecurity; intrusion detection; emergency communications and interoperability; and information system, network, and wireless services security. The Government has acted on many of the NSTAC's recommendations, which have culminated into successes such as:

- **National Coordinating Center (NCC):** An industry-Government coordination center for day-to-day operational support to NS/EP telecommunications, the NCC was officially recognized as the Communications Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center in January 2000. To enhance information sharing and collaborative efforts between communications and cybersecurity partners, in October 2009, the NCC was integrated into the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), a 24-hour, coordinated information sharing and incident response capability designed to protect and secure the Nation's cyber networks and infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) coordinates national response efforts with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and private sector partners during a significant cyber or physical communications threat through the NCCIC.
- **Telecommunications Service Priority System:** The regulatory, administrative, and operational authority that enables priority provisioning and restoration of telecommunications services.
- **Network Security Information Exchanges:** Government and industry meet bi-monthly to address the threats posed to the public network when system vulnerabilities are exploited.
- **Securing Government Communications:** The NSTAC's recommendations on securing Government communications and the adoption of a cyber risk management posture have been implemented throughout the federal enterprise, earning recognition in DHS' 2014 Joint National Priorities for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.
- **National Cyber Incident Response Plan:** The recommendations in the *NSTAC Report to the President on Information and Communications Technology Mobilization* (2014), particularly the NSTAC's definition of information and communication technology (ICT) functions, were influential in DHS' development of the *National Cyber Incident Response Plan* in 2016.

RECENT NSTAC ACTIVITIES

In September 2019, the NSTAC completed the *NSTAC Report to the President on Advancing Resiliency and Fostering Innovation in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ecosystem*. In the report, the NSTAC offered recommendations to the President on how the Government can manage risks, support innovation, and enhance vendor diversity for NS/EP critical capabilities across the ICT ecosystem. In November 2019, the NSTAC met to discuss efforts to secure the ICT supply chain and received an update on ongoing Government initiatives to address cybersecurity issues. At the direction of the EOP, the NSTAC is currently studying software-defined networking (SDN); identifying the challenges and opportunities related to SDN; and assessing how the Government can use SDN in support of NS/EP communications.



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LEADERSHIP

The NSTAC Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the President from among current NSTAC members. Mr. John Donovan, former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AT&T Communications, LLC, serves as the NSTAC Chair, and Mr. Scott Charney, Vice President for Security Policy, Microsoft Corporation, serves as the NSTAC Vice Chair. The NSTAC is supported by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who is the Executive Agent for the NSTAC. DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the NSTAC's Designated Federal Officer work closely with the EOP to coordinate the NSTAC's daily operations.

NSTAC CHAIR

Mr. John Donovan
Former CEO
AT&T Communications, LLC

Mr. Matthew Desch
CEO
Iridium Communications, Inc.

Ms. Renée James
Chairman and CEO
Ampere Computing, LLC

Ms. Kay Sears
Vice President and General
Manager, Military Space
Lockheed Martin Corp.

NSTAC VICE CHAIR

Mr. Scott Charney
Vice President for Security Policy
Microsoft Corp.

Mr. David DeWalt
Founder
NightDragon Security

Dr. Thomas Kennedy
Chairman and CEO
Raytheon Co.

Mr. Gary Smith
President and CEO
Ciena Corp.

Mr. Peter Altabef
Chairman and CEO
Unisys Corp.

Mr. Raymond Dolan
Chairman and CEO
Cohere Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Mark McLaughlin
Vice Chairman
Palo Alto Networks, Inc.

Mr. Jeffrey Storey
President and CEO
CenturyLink, Inc.

Mr. William Brown
Chairman, President, and CEO
Harris Corp.

Dr. Joseph Fergus
Founder, President, and CEO
Communication
Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Angel Ruiz
CEO
MediaKind, Inc.

Mr. Christopher Young
Senior Advisor
TPG Capital, LLC

Mr. Robert Carrigan
CEO
Audible, Inc.

Ms. Lisa Hook
Former President and CEO
Neustar, Inc.

Mr. Stephen Schmidt
Vice President, Security
Engineering and Chief
Information Security Officer
Amazon Web Services, Inc.

NSTAC PUBLICATIONS

[NSTAC Report to the President on Advancing Resiliency and Fostering Innovation in the ICT Ecosystem](#) (September 2019)

[NSTAC Report to the President on the Internet of Things](#) (November 2014)

[NSTAC Letter to the President: Advancing Resiliency and Fostering Innovation in the Information and Communications Technology Ecosystem](#) (April 2019)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Information and Communications Technology Mobilization](#) (November 2014)

[NSTAC Report to the President on a Cybersecurity Moonshot](#) (November 2018)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Secure Government Communications](#) (August 2013)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Internet and Communications Resilience](#) (November 2017)

[NSTAC Report to the President on the National Security and Emergency Preparedness Implications of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network](#) (May 2013)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Emerging Technologies Strategic Vision](#) (July 2017)

[NSTAC Letter to the President: In-Progress Review of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center](#) (November 2012)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Big Data Analytics](#) (May 2016)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Cloud Computing](#) (May 2012)

[NSTAC Letter to the President: Emerging Technologies Strategic Vision](#) (March 2016)

[NSTAC Report to the President on Communications Resiliency](#) (April 2011)