



## 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 discuss its activities.

### BACKGROUND

President Ronald Reagan created the NSTAC by Executive Order 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, Inc.; (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 in successes such as:

- **National Coordinating Center (NCC):** A Government-industry 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, the NCC was later 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 infrastructure. The NCCIC and NCC are now implemented as part of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Central hub, a portal that supports multi-directional information-sharing for federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector stakeholders.
- **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 2014 *NSTAC Report to the President on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Mobilization*, particularly the NSTAC's definition of ICT functions, were influential in DHS' development of the *National Cyber Incident Response Plan* in 2016.

### RECENT NSTAC ACTIVITIES

In February 2021, the NSTAC approved the *NSTAC Letter to the President on NS/EP Communications Priorities*. Addressed to the incoming Administration, the letter outlines the NSTAC's recent recommendations as well as future studies the NSTAC could pursue to advance the Nation's NS/EP priorities. In May 2020, the EOP tasked the NSTAC with a two-phase examination of U.S. communications resiliency. In phase I, the NSTAC studied the coronavirus pandemic's impact on the Nation's ICT ecosystem. In October 2020, the NSTAC approved the *NSTAC Letter to the President on Communications Resiliency*, which included recommendations for improving the United States' NS/EP communications resiliency and economic security. In phase II, the NSTAC will assess the resiliency of the Nation's NS/EP communications systems over the next 8 to 10 years. In August 2020, the NSTAC approved the *NSTAC Report to the President on Software-Defined Networking (SDN)*. In the report, the NSTAC offered policy recommendations on how to: (1) capitalize on best practices for deploying SDN across federal networks and critical infrastructure; (2) use SDN to address risks posed to its NS/EP communications networks and the ICT supply chain; and (3) identify methods to balance security and cost.



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## LEADERSHIP

The NSTAC Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the President from current NSTAC membership. 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. CISA and the NSTAC's Designated Federal Officer work closely with the EOP to coordinate the committee's daily operations.

### NSTAC CHAIR

#### Mr. John Donovan

Former CEO  
AT&T Communications, LLC

#### Dr. Joseph Fergus

Founder, President, and CEO  
Communication Technologies, Inc.

#### Mr. Angel Ruiz

Chairman of the Board  
MediaKind, Inc

### NSTAC VICE CHAIR

#### Mr. Scott Charney

Vice President for Security Policy  
Microsoft Corp.

#### Mr. Patrick Gelsinger

CEO  
Intel Corp.

#### Mr. Stephen Schmidt

Chief Information Security Officer and Vice President of  
Security Engineering  
Amazon Web Services, Inc.

#### Mr. Peter Altabef

Chairman and CEO  
Unisys Corp.

#### Ms. Lisa Hook

Former President and CEO  
Neustar, Inc.

#### Ms. Kay Sears

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

#### Mr. William Brown

Chairman and CEO  
L3Harris Technologies, Inc.

#### Mr. Jack Huffard

Co-Founder and Member of the Board  
Tenable Holdings, Inc.

#### Mr. Gary Smith

President and CEO  
Ciena Corp.

#### Mr. Matthew Desch

CEO  
Iridium Communications, Inc.

#### Ms. Renée James

Chairman and CEO  
Ampere Computing, LLC

#### Mr. Jeffrey Storey

President and CEO  
Lumen Technologies, Inc.

#### Mr. David DeWalt

Founder and Managing Director  
NightDragon Security, LLC

#### Dr. Thomas Kennedy

Executive Chairman  
Raytheon Technologies Corp.

#### Mr. Hock Tan

President, CEO, and Director  
Broadcom, Inc.

#### Mr. Raymond Dolan

Chairman and CEO  
Cohere Technologies, Inc.

#### Mr. Mark McLaughlin

Vice Chairman of the Board  
Palo Alto Networks, Inc.

#### Mr. Christopher Young

Executive Vice President for Business Development  
Microsoft Corp.

## RECENT NSTAC PUBLICATIONS

[NSTAC Letter to the President on NS/EP Communications Priorities](#)  
(February 2021)

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

[NSTAC Letter to the President on Communications Resiliency](#)  
(October 2020)

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

[NSTAC Report to the President on Software-Defined Networking](#)  
(August 2020)

[NSTAC Letter to the President on Big Data Analytics](#) (March 2016)

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

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

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

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

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