

National Communications System

December 6, 2007



National Communications System (NCS)

- **Established in 1963 in response to communications failures associated with the Cuban Missile Crisis**
- **The mandate was redefined through Executive Order 12472**
- **Comprised of 24 Federal Departments and Agencies**
- **Executive and administrative oversight is assigned to the Department of Homeland Security**

Executive Agent

Secretary of Homeland Security

Manager

***Under Secretary for National Protection
and Programs***



The National Communications System is responsible for assuring key national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) decision-makers have the ability to communicate through the full spectrum of crises

In order to effectively accomplish this mission, the NCS:

- Leads and supports key **government and Industry forums**
- Develops and manages **critical programs**
- Maintains vital **analytical capabilities**
- Creates **plans to protect the communications infrastructure**
- Prepares for **future advancements in communication technology**



The NCS provides a forum for the exchange of ideas among Federal stakeholders with significant NS/EP communication responsibilities

Committee of Principals

- *24 Federal Departments and Agencies*
- *Forum to evaluate current and future NS/EP programs*
- *Meetings are chaired by Manager, NCS*

Central Intelligence Agency

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Interior

Department of Justice

Department of State

Department of the Treasury

Department of Transportation

Department of Veteran Affairs

Federal Communications Commission

Federal Reserve Board

FEMA

General Services Administration

Health and Human Services

NASA

National Security Agency

NTIA

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ODNI

The Joint Staff

United States Postal Service



With the vast majority of the communications infrastructure owned by corporations, any successful strategy requires regular and meaningful interaction with industry

National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee

- ***Executives of major communications and network services corporations***
- ***Provides advice to the President on NS/EP communication policy***
- ***NCS provides NSTAC with staff support and technical assistance***

AT&T

Lockheed Martin

SAIC

Bank of America

Microsoft

Sprint Nextel

Boeing

Motorola

Telcordia

CSC

NCTA

Teledesic

CTIA

Nortel

Unisys

Harris

Qwest

US Telecom

Intelsat

Raytheon

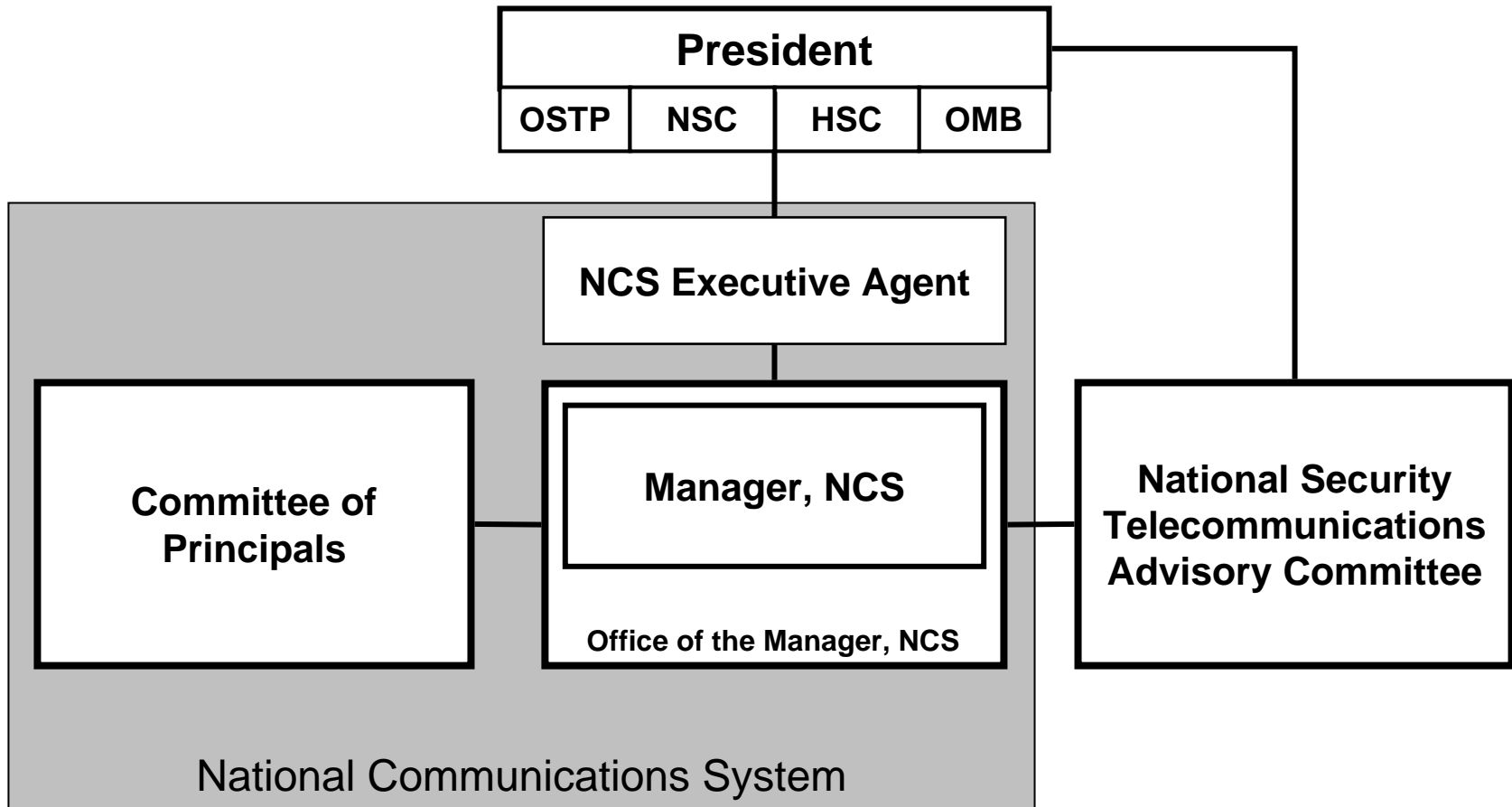
Verizon

Juniper Networks

Rockwell Collins



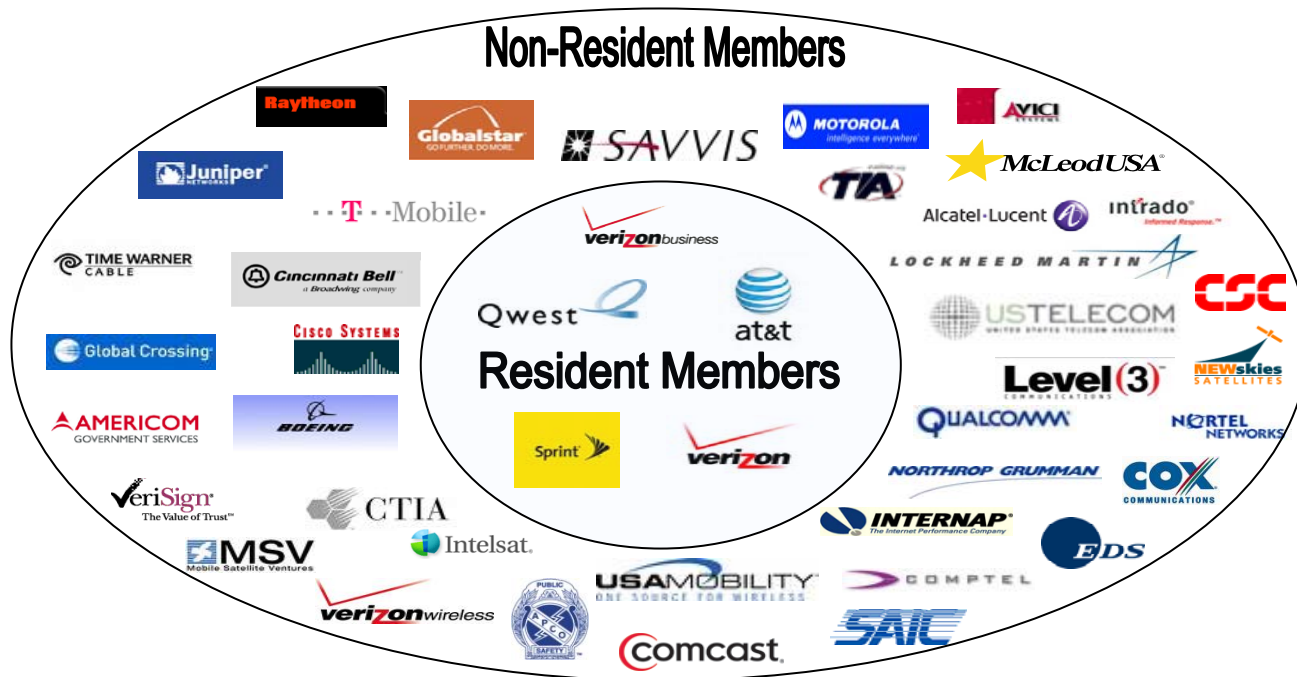
As an interagency “system,” the NCS has a unique reporting relationship with the Executive Office of the President



Interaction with the communications industry is vital in response to a disaster

National Coordinating Center (NCC) for Telecommunications

- **Joint Industry/government operation**
- **Focal point for restoration of the communications infrastructure during disasters**
- **Over 40 industry representatives make up the Communications Information Sharing and Analysis Center**
- **Operates the 24X7 NCC Watch**



Because access to the public communications network is often degraded in times of crisis, the NCS has developed programs to ensure priority access for critical users

Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS)

- ***Priority access to the public wireline network***
- ***GETS is supported by all major service providers***
- ***Eligible users span from Federal leadership to first responders***
- ***Over 150,000 users***
- ***Individual priority is established through a personal identification number***

Wireless Priority Service (WPS)

- ***Priority access to the public wireless network***
- ***WPS is available through AT&T, Edge Wireless, SouthernLINC, Sprint/Nextel, T-Mobile and Verizon***
- ***Eligible users span from Federal leadership to first responders***
- ***Over 43,000 users***
- ***WPS is invoked by dialing *272 from a WPS enabled phone***

Special Routing Arrangement Service

- ***Designed to support classified missions***



While priority service programs are beneficial when the network is degraded, the NCS has also designed programs in anticipation of an inoperable public network

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)

- ***Establishes priority for the restoration and provisioning of critical NS/EP circuits***
- ***Supported by an FCC regulatory mandate***

Emergency Support Function #2, Communications

- ***The National Response Plan designates the NCS as Lead Agency for ESF #2***
- ***National Coordinating Center is the focal point for government/Industry interaction during emergency response***
- ***Accomplished through a partnership with several Federal agencies (DOA, DOC, DOD, DHS, DOI, FCC, GSA)***

Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES)

- ***Providing a single, interagency message handling system with no reliance on the public network***
- ***User community includes over 1,000 stations from over 90 Federal, State and industry organizations worldwide***



In order to effectively plan for a resilient communication capability, the NCS must have a deep understanding of the public communications network

Network Design and Analysis Capability (NDAC)

- ***Enables modeling and analysis of the public switched network***
- ***Assist in the identification of network vulnerabilities***
- ***Provide a laboratory test bed for emerging technologies***
- ***Perform scenario analysis for specific threats***

Analysis Response Team (ART)

- ***Provide tailored analytical products to support decision making in advance of and during incidents of national significance***
- ***Focused on tactical, operational analyses***



HSPD-7 required DHS to develop a framework to identify, prioritize and protect the nation's critical infrastructure; the NCS is Sector Specific Agency for communications

NCS responsibilities include:

- ***Developing and implementing the Communications Sector-Specific Plan in partnership with industry***
- ***Collaborating with Federal, State, and local governments and industry***
- ***Identifying, prioritizing, and coordinating the protection of critical assets***
- ***Conducting risk and vulnerability assessments in partnership with industry***
- ***Chairing the Communications Government Coordinating Council***
- ***Performing the National Risk Assessment***



Through advancing technology and deregulation, the public communications network is evolving; the NCS is capitalizing on this evolution

Next Generation Networks

- ***The convergence of networks leads to a multitude of new communications services***
- ***As networks evolve, they must continue to support NS/EP priority programs***
- ***NCS will leverage new technology to deliver innovative NS/EP communication services (priority Internet)***

Standards Development

- ***Rapid acceptance of the Next Generation Network is based on a set of widely accepted standards for network protocol***
- ***NCS participation in the development of these standards is necessary to ensure a robust suite of NS/EP communication services***



National Communications System

Since its inception, the National Communications System has developed programs and services to address the unique communications challenges associated with the Cold War, communications divestiture, deregulation, natural disasters and terrorist attacks on our Nation.

The enduring success of the NCS is attributable to its unique construct. ***At its core, the NCS is a collection of relationships***; relationships with Federal stakeholders and the communications industry.

By cultivating these relationships, the NCS will ensure its success into the future.



Current NCS Priorities

- Continuity Communications for Federal departments and agencies
 - National Continuity Policy (HSPD-20/NSPD-51)
 - Minimum Requirements for Continuity Communications Capabilities (NCSD 3-10)
- Emergency Support Function #2
 - Access, Fuel and Security for Industry
- Priority Telecommunications Services in the Next Generation Network
- Telecommunications and Electric Power Interdependencies

