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

In September 1982, President Ronald Reagan created the NSTAC by Executive Order 12382, *President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee*, to advise the President on matters regarding NS/EP telecommunications. Four issues prompted 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 the:

- **National Coordinating Center (NCC):** Acting as a Government-industry coordination center for day-to-day operational NS/EP communications support, the NCC was officially recognized as the Communications Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center in January 2000, and 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.

- **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 bimonthly to address the threats posed to the public network when system vulnerabilities are exploited.

- **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force:** The Government's highest profile public-private group addressing ICT supply chain security issues, the task force identifies actionable steps for risk management within the global ICT supply chain.

RECENT NSTAC ACTIVITIES

In May 2020, the EOP tasked the NSTAC with a two-phase examination of the United States' communications resiliency posture. In October 2020, the NSTAC approved a letter to the President that included recommendations for improving the United States' NS/EP communications resiliency and economic security following the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2021, the NSTAC delivered a report to the President that offered recommendations to overcome challenges to the Nation's NS/EP communications resiliency over the next 8 to 10 years. Also in May 2021, the EOP tasked the NSTAC with a study on "Enhancing Internet Resiliency [EIR] in 2021 and Beyond." In this study, the NSTAC is examining software assurance; zero-trust networking and trusted identity management; the convergence of information technology and operational technology; and a strategy for increasing trust in the ICT and services (ICTS) ecosystem. Each phase will culminate in a separate report to the President. In November 2021, the NSTAC deliberated, voted on, and approved the phase I EIR report, which identifies: (1) current/emerging software assurance methodologies; (2) methods for incentivizing market-based software assurance frameworks; (3) key issues for developing and implementing ICTS supply chain protections; and (4) recommendations to secure software development lifecycle processes and deploy supply chain risk management best practices for mission-critical networks.

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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

NSTAC VICE CHAIR

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

Mr. Peter Altabef
Chair and CEO
Unisys Corp.

Mr. William Brown
Executive Chair
L3Harris Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Matthew Desch
CEO and Member of the Board
Iridium Communications, Inc.

Mr. David DeWalt
Founder and Managing Director
NightDragon Security, LLC

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

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

Mr. Patrick Gelsinger
CEO and Member of the Board
Intel Corp.

Ms. Lisa Hook
Managing Partner
Two Island Partners, LLC

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

Ms. Renée James
Founder, Chair, and CEO
Ampere Computing, LLC

Mr. Mark McLaughlin
Vice Chair of the Board
Palo Alto Networks, Inc.

Mr. Angel Ruiz
Chair of the Board
MediaKind, Inc.

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

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

Mr. Gary Smith
President and CEO
Ciena Corp.

Mr. Jeffrey Storey
President and CEO
Lumen Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Hock Tan
President, CEO, and Director
Broadcom, Inc.

RECENT NSTAC PUBLICATIONS

NSTAC Report to the President on Software Assurance in the ICTS Supply Chain (November 2021)

NSTAC Report to the President on Communications Resiliency (May 2021)

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

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

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

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

NSTAC Letter to the President on Advancing Resiliency and Fostering Innovation in the ICT Ecosystem (April 2019)

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