

Mission Statement

The Alerting and Coordination Network (ACN) provides a stable emergency voice communications network connecting telecommunications service providers' Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Network Operations Centers (NOCs) to support national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications network restoration coordination, transmission of telecommunications requirements and priorities, and incident reporting when the Public Switched Network is inoperable, stressed or congested.

The ACN is one of a number of initiatives sponsored by the National Communications System (NCS) in its role of planning and preparing for NS/EP. The ACN is operational 24x7 to support the National Coordinating Center (NCC) during normal and emergency operations.

What is the ACN?

The Alerting and Coordination Network (ACN) is a program element of the National Communications System (NCS) providing essential non-public switched network based communications among critical government and telecommunications industry operations centers. The ACN provides the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC), selected government agencies, major telecommunications carriers and vendors with a closed system allowing dial-up capability among participants.

The ACN supports the NCC that in turn supports Federal Government telecommunications planning, provisioning, and restoration during events across the crisis spectrum, up to and including war and continuity of government emergencies. The Office of the Manager, NCS (OMNCS) assumed responsibility for the ACN in January 2001, with the dissolution of the National Telecommunications Alliance (NTA).

Convergence to VoIP Network

Like most of the world, the ACN has found value in Voice-over IP (VoIP). Currently there are two Definity Prologix PBX's supporting the network, both of which will soon be upgraded and IP enabled. Once the upgrades are complete, the circuits will be transitioned and users will be brought into a VoIP environment. The VoIP capabilities will be featured in the next quarterly newsletter.

Test Schedule

June 10, 2002
July 16, 2002

As two hub sites must be tested, test times will be 0900 – 1500 EST.

Points of Contact

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