



Homeland
Security

Fact Sheet

National Communications System Committee of Principals

Purpose: The National Communications System (NCS) Committee of Principals (COP) is a presidentially designated interagency group that provides advice and recommendations on national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications to the Executive Office of the President (EOP).

Background: The COP is composed of Assistant Secretary or equivalent Government officials representing Federal operational, policy, regulatory, and enforcement organizations with the role of executing the responsibilities assigned by Executive Order 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) Telecommunications Functions." Its diverse representation across 24 Federal Departments and Agencies embraces the full spectrum of Federal communications assets and responsibilities. As an interagency group, it serves as a forum for members to review, evaluate, and present views and recommendations on current and prospective NS/EP communications issues to the Manager, NCS; the Executive Agent (the Secretary of Homeland Security); as well as the EOP.

COP members may identify subject matter experts, but are responsible for providing the official position of their respective organizations on policy, technical, and programmatic NS/EP communications issues. Principals ensure that written reports, comments, and recommendations are made available to the Committee through the Executive Secretary (the NCS Deputy Manager) for comments, approvals, or informational purposes.

NCS Council of Representatives: The Council of Representatives (COR) was formally established by the Committee Bylaws as a permanent subordinate group to participate in NCS activities. Each Department and Agency provides a representative to the COR. The Office of the Manager, NCS provides executive secretariat support to the COP, COR, and their working groups. As needed, the COR will establish technical, policy and planning subcommittees and implementation teams to address specific NS/EP issues. These subcommittees and teams, often comprised of agency subject matter experts, provide reports and/or recommendations back to the COP/COR. The COP can then use this information to create policy or provide recommendations to the Executive Office of the President.

There are currently three COP/COR subcommittees;

Recommendations and Internal Authorities Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the COP Bylaws to determine their sufficiency in conveying the proper authorities for COP and COR processes and structure;• Ensure that all NCS issuances accurately reflect the current NS/EP communications environment by determining which issuances remain relevant, which issuances require revisions or modifications, and which issuances should be cancelled because they are no longer relevant or useful to the departments and agencies (D/A) within the NS/EP communications community;• Make recommendations to assist NCS D/As in complying with NCS
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	<p>issuances and to address potential compliance costs or costs associated with procuring required services prescribed within any issuance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share compliance information to ensure COP members are aware of Federal executive policies and legislation; and • Serve as a clearinghouse for reviewing recommendations to the EOP from groups such as the COP and the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC), and determining whether the COP—or a more appropriate external entity—should comment on or takes steps to implement the recommendations.
Emerging Communication Technologies Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess the effectiveness of products and services currently in use by the Government in support of NS/EP communications • Disseminate a summary of assessment findings to member D/As no later than 90 days after the completion of a formal assessment. • Identify technological and functional gaps among member D/As to provide a collective view of the challenges they face, and provide a starting point for addressing these issues. • Identify which Federal D/As create various technologies ‘in-house’, and invite representatives from these D/As to share new technology concepts, as well as lessons learned and best practices in developing and deploying these technologies. • Provide recommendations to the COP/COR for appropriate technology subject matter experts from the Government and private sector to present briefings on emerging technologies of interest to the NS/EP community.
Priority Services Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommending improvements to these programs and developing methods for publicizing these programs; • Informing the COP of priority services-related developments and issues; • Engaging collaboratively with industry with respect to these programs; • Developing recommendations to update outdated priority services rules; and • Developing recommendations for the prioritization of data on the public network, satellite communications, and other services.

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