



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.

Background: The COP is composed of high-level Government officials representing Federal operational, policy, regulatory, and enforcement organizations. 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 or prospective NS/EP communications issues to the Manager, NCS; the Executive Agent (the Secretary of Homeland Security); and the Executive Office of the President (EOP).

The COP member is responsible for providing the position of their parent organization 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).

The Manager of the National Communications System chairs the Committee of Principals. Each member department and agency of the NCS is responsible for providing an Assistant Secretary equivalent individual to sit on the Committee of Principals (COP) with the role of executing the responsibilities assigned by Executive Order 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) Telecommunications Functions."

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 Council of Representatives (COR). The Office of the Manager, NCS provides support to the COP, COR, and their working groups. As needed, the COR may establish technical, policy and planning subcommittees and implementation teams to address specific NS/EP issues. These subcommittees and teams, often comprised of Departments/Agencies subject matter experts, provide reports and/or recommendations back to the COP/COR. The COP can then use this information to create educated policy or provide recommendations to the Executive Office of the President.

Contact Information: NCS Government Industry Planning & Management Branch 703-235-4969. Web Site: http://www.ncs.gov/about_cop.html ♦ E-mail: ncsweb1@dhs.gov.