



## *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 President and the Executive Branch regarding policy and enhancements to 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 policy and technical issues related to telecommunications, information systems, information assurance, infrastructure protection, and other NS/EP concerns. The NSTAC meets quarterly via conference calls and holds an annual meeting to report its activities while providing recommendations to the President.

**BACKGROUND:** President Ronald Reagan created the NSTAC by Executive Order (E.O.) 12382, *President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee*, in September 1982 to advise the President on matters regarding NS/EP telecommunications. Four issues provided impetus for the establishment of the NSTAC: (1) the divestiture of AT&T; (2) increased Government reliance on commercial communications; (3) potential impact of new technologies on NS/EP telecommunications; and (4) growing importance of command, control, and communications to military and disaster response modernization.

**NSTAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Many NSTAC activities are the genesis for technical reports, recommendations to the President, and NS/EP operational programs. The NSTAC has examined a wide range of issues, including network survivability; network convergence; commercial satellite survivability; cybersecurity and crime; intrusion detection; emergency communications and interoperability; and information system, network, and wireless services security issues. The National Coordinating Center (NCC), an industry-Government coordination center for day-to-day operational support to NS/EP telecommunications, began as an NSTAC recommendation. In January 2000, the NCC was officially recognized as the Communications Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center. In order to enhance information sharing and collaborative efforts between communications and cybersecurity partners, in October 2009, the NCC was 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 networks and infrastructure. DHS will coordinate national response efforts with Federal, State, and local, Tribal, Territorial governments and private sector partners during a significant cyber or physical communications threat through the NCCIC. Formerly an NSTAC issue, the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) system, is also now an operational program. TSP is the regulatory, administrative, and operational authority that enables priority provisioning and restoration of telecommunications services for Federal, State, and local government users, as well as nongovernmental users. Furthermore, NSTAC activities led to the creation of an industry-based Network Security Information Exchange (NSIE), which meets regularly with a Government NSIE to address the threat posed to the public network when system vulnerabilities are exploited.

**NSTAC ACTIVITIES:** When the Executive Office of the President (EOP) requests the NSTAC examine an issue, a subcommittee is formed to address it. Over the 2010-2011 cycle, the NSTAC supported several issue-specific subcommittees and task forces. Most recently, a subcommittee was formed to evaluate the NS/EP implications of the Federal Government's transition to cloud computing technologies. The subcommittee is working to review the operational and security impacts on NS/EP communications and the technologies' implications on policy and security requirements for the Federal Government. The Cybersecurity Collaboration Task Force reviewed issues involving the Nation's cyber infrastructure, specifically how industry and Government can improve cybersecurity information sharing to mitigate NS/EP communications risks. The Identity Issues Task Force reviewed and developed comments on the EOP's *National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace* in an effort to help develop a national identity management architecture. Finally, the Communications Resiliency Task Force provided recommendations on options for investments or actions the Government could take to enhance the survivability or availability of communications for the general population, emergency response personnel, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and State and local authorities during a time of natural disaster or man-made attack.

**LEADERSHIP:** Industry executives hold the positions of NSTAC Chair and Vice Chair. At this time, Mr. James Crowe, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Level 3 Communications, Inc., holds the NSTAC Chair position and Ms. Maggie Wilderotter, Chairman and CEO, Frontier Communications Corporation holds the NSTAC Vice Chair position. The NSTAC is supported by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who is the Executive Agent for the NSTAC. The National Communications System also works closely with the EOP to coordinate the NSTAC's daily operations.



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## **MEMBERSHIP:**

### **NSTAC CHAIR**

Mr. James Q. Crowe  
CEO  
Level 3 Communications, Inc.

### **NSTAC VICE CHAIR**

Ms. Maggie Wilderotter  
Chairman and CEO  
Frontier Communications Corp.

Mr. Scott Charney  
Corporate Vice President for  
Trustworthy Computing, Engineering  
Excellence, and Environmental  
Sustainability  
Microsoft Corp.

Mr. Dick Costolo  
CEO  
Twitter, Inc.

Mr. Matthew J. Desch  
Director and CEO  
Iridium Communications, Inc.

Mr. David G. DeWalt  
Board Member McAfee, Inc.

Ms. Jamie Dos Santos  
President and CEO  
Terremark Federal Group

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

Ms. Linda Gooden  
Executive Vice President,  
Information Systems & Global  
Solutions  
Lockheed Martin Corp.

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Telcordia Technologies, Inc.

Ms. Larissa L. Herda  
Chairman, President, and CEO  
tw telecom, inc.

Mr. Dan Hesse  
CEO  
Sprint Nextel Corp.

Ms. Lisa A. Hook  
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Mr. Kevin Johnson  
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Juniper Networks, Inc.

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President and CEO  
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Mr. Michael W. Laphen  
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Vonage Holdings Corp.

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CEO  
TE Connectivity, Ltd.

Mr. Mark McLaughlin  
President and CEO  
Palo Alto Networks

Mr. Glen Post  
President and CEO  
CenturyLink, Inc.

Mr. Paul Sagan  
CEO  
Akamai Technologies, Inc.

Ms. Kay Sears  
President  
Intelsat General Corp.

Mr. Ivan D. Seidenberg  
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Verizon Communications, Inc.

Mr. Gary Smith  
CEO  
Ciena Corp.

Mr. John T. Stankey  
Group President and Chief Strategy  
Officer  
AT&T, Inc.

Mr. William H. Swanson  
Chairman and CEO  
Raytheon Company

## **RECENT NSTAC PUBLICATIONS:**

*NSTAC Report to the President on Communications  
Resiliency, April 2011*

*NSTAC Response to the National Strategy for Secure Online  
Transactions  
Partial Draft version 0.2, June 2010*

*NSTAC Response to the National Strategy for Secure Online  
Transactions, May 2010*

*NSTAC Report to the President on Commercial Satellite  
Communications Mission Assurance, November 2009*

*NSTAC Report to the President on Identity Management  
Strategy, May 2009*

*Cybersecurity Collaboration Report: Strengthening  
Government and Private Sector Collaboration Through a  
Cyber Incident Detection, Prevention, Mitigation, and  
Response Capability, May 2009*