



Telecommunications Information Sharing and Analysis Center

Issue Background

Presidential Decision Directive (PDD)-63 established the concept of an Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) that would be a private sector entity responsible for gathering, analyzing, sanitizing, and disseminating to industry information related to vulnerabilities, threats, intrusions, and anomalies affecting the critical infrastructures. In early 2000, the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC) became the ISAC for telecommunications.

History of NSTAC Actions

The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee's (NSTAC) continued support for the NCC's evolving role helped pave the way for its establishment as the ISAC for telecommunications under the provisions of PDD-63. In 1997, the NSTAC advocated and later endorsed the NCC's implementation of an electronic intrusion incident reporting capability based on voluntary reporting by industry and the Government. At the end of the NSTAC XXII cycle in 1999, the NSTAC Operations Support Group concluded that the NCC already performed the primary functions of an ISAC for the telecommunications sector and that industry and Government should establish it as such.

In September 1999 following a reevaluation of NSTAC working groups, the Industry Executive Subcommittee created the Information Sharing/Critical Infrastructure Protection (IS/CIPTF) to examine mechanisms and processes for protected, operational information sharing that would help achieve the goals of PDD-63 and further the role of the NCC as the ISAC for telecommunications. In addition, the IES directed the IS/CIPTF to continue, through outreach efforts, interaction with Government leaders responsible for PDD-63 implementation.

In January 2000, the National Security Council agreed with the NSTAC's 1999 conclusion that the NCC was already performing the primary functions of an ISAC. In March 2000, the NCC formally achieved initial operating capability as an ISAC for the telecommunications sector. The initial NCC-ISAC membership was based on NCC membership and they both are evolving to reflect a broader base of technologies comprising the telecommunications infrastructure.