



National Security Telecommunications And Information Systems Security Committee

CHAIRMAN

NSTISSC-049-99
30 August 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS OF THE NSTISSC

SUBJECT: Compliance with the Requirements of NTISSP No. 1

1. Events of the past decade have shown that department and agency requirements for satellite communications services cannot be satisfied solely via the use of U.S. Government-owned and operated spacecraft. There continues to be an increasing reliance on the satellite communications services provided by commercial vendors. This trend highlights the importance of ensuring that providers of commercial satellite services fully comply with the requirements of NTISSP No. 1, Subject: National Policy on Application of Communications Security to U.S. Civil and Commercial Space Systems, dated 17 June 1985.
2. During periods of international crises, it is critically important that satellite systems used by U.S. Government entities be protected from damage or destruction by unauthorized/malicious use of command uplinks. This can only be accomplished by ensuring that the command uplinks for these spacecraft are adequately protected. Accordingly, all Departments and Agencies are reminded of their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of NTISSP No. 1. Prior to contract negotiations should include requirements for secure command uplink protection using cryptographic techniques which have been evaluated and approved by the National Security Agency (NSA).
3. During the coming years, I also believe this requirement will take on increased importance in the context of the critical infrastructure protection requirements of PDD-63. As in the case of national security requirements, critical infrastructure providers must also be able to ensure the secure and unavable availability of these critical communications assets during periods of national emergencies or disruptions. In that context, the importance of the Executive Branch's taking and exercising a leadership role in this area cannot be overemphasized. I solicit and encourage your full cooperation in ensuring that we are prepared to respond to the potential cyber and critical infrastructure threats of the future.

ACK
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Copy Furnished:

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