

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM  
701 South Courthouse Road  
Arlington, Virginia 22204-2198

NCS DIRECTIVE 3-9

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS

Communications Resource Information Sharing Initiative

1. Purpose. This directive establishes National Communications System (NCS) policies pertaining to administrating and using the NCS Communications Resource Information Sharing (CRIS) initiative.
2. Applicability. This directive is binding upon NCS and other Executive entities that voluntarily elect to participate in the CRIS initiative.
3. Authority. This directive is issued under the authority of Executive Order No. 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions," April 3, 1984; 49 Federal Register 13471, April 5, 1984; and NCS Directive 1-1, "National Communications System (NCS) Issuance System," November 30, 1987.
4. References.
  - a. Executive Order No. 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions," April 3, 1984, 49 Federal Register 13471.
  - b. Executive Order No. 12656, "Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities," November 18, 1988.
  - c. "A Concept of Operations for the NCS Communications Resource Information Sharing (CRIS) Initiative," April 2, 1994.
5. General.
  - a. Many Federal departments and agencies possess communications resources in the form of assets, services, and capabilities which could be shared voluntarily with other Federal departments and agencies. The NCS CRIS initiative establishes an information

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source which provides resource points of contact, associated communications resources, and supporting information for use by CRIS participants.

b. The CRIS information source will facilitate on a voluntary basis the sharing of communications resources in non-Presidentially declared disasters, emergencies, or as necessary for critical needs.

6. Policy.

a. Participation in the CRIS initiative is open on a voluntary basis to all NCS member organizations and other government-sponsored activities.

b. Participants will furnish points of contact and may provide resource information on a voluntary basis.

c. Use of CRIS shall not interfere with departmental or agency missions and operations.

d. Participants will identify resource points of contact to facilitate the rapid coordination and sharing of resources.

e. Participants having centralized control points or operations centers for managing communications assets may elect to identify only the control point as the point of contact. If the resources are regionally based and administered, the controlling entity may elect to decentralize CRIS participation and identify regional control points as the points of contact.

f. Identification of CRIS resources may include government-owned and -leased, or otherwise government-controlled communications resources.

g. Supporting information in the CRIS information source will include minimum coordination guidance to ensure non-interference.

h. Providers of CRIS resources may establish terms and conditions related to the sharing of CRIS resources.

7. Responsibilities.

a. The NCS Committee of Principals is the approving body for the CRIS Initiative. The Office of the Manager, NCS (OMNCS), will provide technical, administrative, and maintenance support in developing and implementing CRIS. Upon implementation, the OMNCS will also act as a coordinator for CRIS.

b. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), General Services Administration (GSA), and OMNCS will coordinate on implementing and maintaining the CRIS information source, and distributing the information to ensure CRIS activities do not conflict with the disaster and emergency management responsibilities of FEMA and GSA during Presidentially declared emergencies.

c. CRIS participants will:

(1) Help develop the CRIS information source and maintain the currency and accuracy of their information contained in the information source.

(2) Use CRIS in conjunction with other activities (e.g., national security and emergency preparedness exercises) to assess its effectiveness.

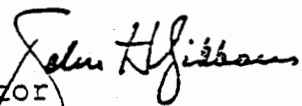
(3) Ensure that the missions and operations of departments and agencies are not adversely impacted when using CRIS.

(4) Coordinate the use of existing radio frequency authorizations to ensure that interference with other authorized radio services does not occur when loaning spectrum-dependent resources.

8. Authorizing Provisions. An NCS Handbook to support this Directive is authorized.

9. Effective Date. This Directive is effective immediately.

10. Expiration. This Directive is in effect until superseded or canceled.

  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology  
Policy  
Date: February 12, 1996

Summary of Changes: Initial Issuance